The Daily and Weekly Commercial.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XIII.—NO. 14. WEEKLY EDITION. FEBRUARY 12, 1876.

The Weekly Commercial, a large sheet containing all the Current News, Miscellaneous, Literary and Scientific Intelligence, and Valuable Reading for the family.

TERMS OF THE WEEKLY: Per Year (52 issues), $1 75; in Clubs of Twenty and over $1 25; postage pre-paid; one copy gratis to the getter up of the Club. *The money must always accompany the Order, and to, no instance can Subscriptions be furnished gratis.*

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HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 3, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate met at eleven A. M., and was called to order by Lieutenant Governor Latta.

The following bills were reported favorably from committees: Act to punish persons for pointing or discharging fire arms at other persons.

Act relating to the exemption of property from levy, sale or execution and distress for rent.

Act enlarging the powers of courts of equity in cases of partition.

Act regulating the publication of legal advertisements in papers of the party's choice.

Act to amend and consolidate the several acts relating to game and game fish.

Act authorizing the establishment of a school for deaf mutes.

The following bills were introduced: Mr. Dunkle—Authorizing the Auditor General to examine and settle all military claims.

Mr. Newmyer—A supplementary act to regulate the practice of medicine, surgery and obstetrics. The above bill requires physicians to record their names and residence with the board of health.

Act for the more certain and equal assessment of taxes. *This bill* provides for the classification and uniform taxation of property in three classes, business, rural and farming, and is intended to give relief to the rural districts from excessive taxation.

Act to reorganize the Congressional districts of Pennsylvania so as to attach the township of Collier to the Twenty-second Congressional district.

Mr. Strang rose to a question of privilege, and moved the reconsideration of the vote by which the bill diverting moneys from the sinking fund was defeated. Agreed to.

Mr. Wandon moved for reconsideration of the votes had on third reading and Mr. Albright's amendments to the second section, placing Albright's amendments again before the Senate. Agreed to, except on Mr. Albright provided that the State Treasurer should give a monthly account of all interest, bonus, premium or other consideration received for the use of funds held on deposit. The yeas and nays were called on the amendment which was defeated by a vote of 8 yeas to 31 nays. The second section of the bill was then passed.

Mr. Strang offered the following additional section as an amendment to the bill:

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the State Treasurer to render a statement of the sinking fund on the first business days of January, April, July and October, giving the balance remaining in the sinking fund in excess of the amount required to pay the interest on the public debt, whereupon the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund shall authorize the purchase by the fiscal agent of the Commonwealth of State next maturing at the then market rates; provided, such purchases can be made for the best interests of the State; provided further, that all such investments shall immediately be cancelled by said agent, and the certificate of the same be forwarded to the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund in like manner as if said loan had been redeemed by the State.

SEC. 4. The State Treasurer shall, in his monthly report to the Governor, be required to take credit for the amount of such purchases made by the said fiscal agent, and shall also give the rate and amounts of premium, if any, paid for such purchases.

The amendment was agreed to, and the bill ordered to be printed. It now comes up on third reading again. It will be considered in the Senate to-morrow, no doubt, and passed finally.

The following bills passed third reading: Act to validate sales and conveyances under the decrees of courts of common pleas, orphans' courts, where the same have been heretofore irregularly or improperly appointed or defectively qualified.

Act relating to registration of births and marriages in the cities. Amended so as not to apply to cities of the first and second class.

Act to regulate the amount of toll and other charges to be laid and collected by boom companies—yeas 27, nays 8.

Act relating to service of notice of time and place of meeting of electors.

Act authorizing and regulating the issuance of venires for the attendance of jurors in the several courts.

Act to exempt pianos and organs from levy and sale on execution and distress for rent. Passed.

Act enabling assignees for the benefit of creditors to make sale of real estate encumbered by liens. Amended.

Bills on Second Reading—Act prescribing how the employment of partnerships, associations and corporations engaged in the mining of coal or the manufacture and production of iron or steel shall be paid for their labor and services. Special order on Thursday morning next.

The following notaries public nominated by the Governor for a term of three years were confirmed by the Senate: Samuel Smith, Pittsburgh; J. H. Hillerman, Pittsburgh; Thomas A. Spence, Pittsburgh; W. Hammar, Pittsburgh; Andrew Humbert, Tarentum; William V. Evans, Tarentum, Allegheny county; H. J. Hammond, Ebensburg, Cambria county; M. N. Miles, Petrolia, Butler county.

ADJOURNED.

The Senate met this afternoon at three o'clock in special session, to consider on third reading and final passage bills which permit defendants to testify in criminal cases. Messrs. Dill, Strang, Herr and Winslow spoke against the bill, while Messrs. Yerkes, Albright, Albright, Jones and Anderson, of Allegheny, warmly advocated its passage. The yeas were 19, nays 22. It having failed to receive the constitutional majority, the bill falls.

The report of the Superintendant on public printing was laid before the Senate. Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at eleven o'clock.

Mr. Salter read in place a bill to regulate the crossing of steam railroads by passenger railroad cars.

The use of the hall was granted to the Anti-Monopoly Convention for this (Thursday) evening.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of bills on second reading, when the following were disposed of as stated:

Act to provide for the payment of costs in certain cases. Negatived.

Act in relation to the entry of satisfaction of judgments which have been fully paid by defendants. Passed.

Act fixing the number, duties and compensation of officers of the Senate and House of Representatives. The bill reduces the number and compensation of officers of the Legislature.

Mr. Wolfe submitted an amendment making a still further reduction in the amount of compensation, and supported his amendment.

Mr. Hays thought the reductions made in the bill were sufficient.

Mr. Faunce looked upon the whole matter as a piece of buncombe.

Mr. Hays denied that the bill was got up for buncombe.

Mr. Williams, of Clarion, moved to postpone the bill indefinitely. Not agreed to—yeas 59, nays 115. The amendment of Mr. Wolfe was then agreed to—yeas 107, nays 62. The bill then passed second reading—yeas 120, nays 41.

The House then adjourned.

A bill will be shortly introduced abolishing boards of school control for cities of the third class, which includes Allegheny city.

The special committee on dividing the cities of the State into five classes met this afternoon, and unanimously agreed to the bill.

The members of the Anti-Monopoly Convention held a public meeting in the hall of the House this evening. Several speakers expounded their peculiar doctrines to a large and appreciative audience.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 4, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate was called to order at 10 A. M., Mr. Davis, President *pro tem.*, in the chair.

Mr. Strang made a statement that he would call up the act relative to diverting money from the sinking fund if it was understood by the Senate (which was not very likely) that it would pass. He supposed the difficulties could be settled in a committee of conference.

Mr. Albright stated that he thought it was best to pass the bill this morning and that the difficulties could be best settled in a committee of conference.

The bill, as amended yesterday, was read, and the yeas and nays were called and were as follows: yeas 36, nays none.

Bills Reported Favorably—To authorize the Governor to appoint a suitable person to take temporary charge of the Marine Hospital at Erie.

Amending the Bank Liability act, making stockholders liable for double the amount of bank stock held by any.

Act to enable banks to consolidate.

Bills Introduced—Act to exempt persons who religiously observe the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath from the penalties of the act of April 22, 1794.

Supplement to the act establishing an Insurance Department, leaving co-operative insurance companies under the control of the Insurance Department.

Act to prohibit and prevent the having or using of fire and lights on board of vessels whilst lying at any wharf on or near to which petroleum is stored or kept for export.

Mr. Nagle presented the minority report of the committee to investigate the charters of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad and the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company. It is the same presented in the House by Mr. Losch.

Several bills passed the Senate on second reading, all of which have been published by the Pittsburgh press while on their first readings.

Mr. Cooper introduced the following:

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourn to-day, it be to meet Monday evening at 8 o'clock. Adopted.

The following concurrent resolution was agreed to:

Resolved, That when both Houses adjourn on Friday, February 11, it be to meet on the Wednesday following.

Bills Passed Finally—Relating to the registration of births and marriages in cities of the Commonwealth.

The amendments of Mr. Strang, incorporated in House bill No. 14, relating to the sinking fund of the Treasury, having been returned from the House with the non-concurrence of the same, on motion of Mr. Strang, the Senate insisted on the amendments as passed by Senate and a Committee of Conference, consisting of Messrs. Strang, Warfel and Dill, was appointed.

The Governor nominated Joseph White, of Pittsburgh, as Notary Public.

Adjourned until Monday evening.

HOUSE.

The House met at 10 A. M.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Adjutant General, transmitting a detailed statement of the expenses incurred by the military in suppressing the mining difficulties in Luzerne, Carbon and Schuylkill counties last summer.

The bill supplementary to the act entitled "An act to prescribe the manner by which courts may divide boroughs into wards," approved May 14, 1874, was called up on second reading and passed.

A large number of petitions were presented and properly referred, among which was a communication from Theodore D. Corum, presenting serious charges against the management of the affairs of the Home of Refuge at Philadelphia, which was read.

Mr. Gentner offered a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of seven to investigate the charges made against the House of Refuge of Philadelphia. Agreed to. Messrs. Gentner, Palatt, Conrad, Piper, Yeakel, Rice and Ulrich were appointed as such committee.

Mr. Reighard called up his resolution providing that hereafter, until otherwise ordered, the hour of the meeting of the House shall be 9 o'clock A. M., except on Mondays. The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Lusk presented a concurrent resolution, with a lengthy preamble, asking Congress to grant the Pacific Railway. Referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

Mr. Salter offered a concurrent resolution, which was agreed to, that when the Legislature adjourns on Friday, February 11, it adjourns to meet at half-past seven o'clock Wednesday evening, February 16.

Mr. Faunce offered a resolution authorizing the House to name a person to serve as Trustee of the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art for the period of two years. Agreed to. The Chair appointed Hon. Charles R. Buckalew.

Bills Reported Affirmatively—Authorizing the appointment of inspectors of petroleum oils.

Regulating the sale of refined petroleum, by providing that the sale be at the rate of six and a half pounds to the gallon.

Protecting children in acquiring useful trades.

Authorizing appeals in cases of summary conviction.

Supplement to the conspiracy act of 1872.

Supplement to the act relating to liens of mechanics, affirmatively with amendments.

Bills Reported Negatively—Authorizing electors to vote for all candidates on one slip.

Declaring the waiver of exemption to be void.

Creating a new class for liquor licenses, where sales do not exceed $2,500, as the first class, to pay twenty-five dollars license.

By Mr. Christy—Act to prevent justices of of peace from acting as attorneys.

Mr. Gunnell offered a resolution the House bill entitled "An act supplementary to the several acts relating to the State Treasury and Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, approved May 16, 1874, be amended by striking out section thereof so as to assign part of the revenue derived from tax on the capital stock of all corporations of the Commonwealth to the sinking fund and part thereof to the general fund," were read and non-concurred in—yeas 86, nays 61—less than a constitutional majority having voted in the affirmative. The House appointed a Committee of Conference, consisting of Messrs. Bailey, Stouzer and Miner.

Bills Introduced—Act to amend the act relative to the election of Select Councils in cities of the second class. This act is intended to reduce the number of Select Councilmen in the city of Pittsburgh to about one-half the present number.

Mr. Wendt—Act to validate certain lands in Mary L. Kemp, et al.

Act to reimburse the authorities of St. Vincent's College of Westmoreland county for the maintenance and education of certain soldiers' orphans, appropriating money for said purpose.

Act requiring bonds to be given for all State contracts.

Also—making an appropriation for repairs, books and stationery for the Western Penitentiary.

Mr. Spang—Supplementary act consolidating the laws relating to game and game fish.

The act amends the seventeenth section of the act of 1873. It allows the washing of coal, preparatory to its use, for coking or burning in furnaces, &c., provided a tank or other suitable receptacle is provided in which culm or coal dirt may be collected, and prevent the same from passing into rivers or streams of the Commonwealth.

The House then adjourned until half-past seven o'clock next Monday evening.

The Conference Committee of the Senate and House in relation to the sinking fund, have not agreed upon a report as yet, and will no doubt finally agree upon a bill which will pass both Houses Monday evening next.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 7, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 8 P. M., the Lieutenant Governor in the chair.

Bills on First Reading—Concurrent resolution requesting Senators and members of Congress to vote for an act equalizing bounties to soldiers, sailors and marines in the late rebellion; also to vote for the repeal of the Bankrupt act.

Mr. Strang, from the Conference Committee, made the following report:

"The undersigned Committee, appointed to consider the differences existing between the two Houses on House bill No. 14, entitled: 'An act to more fully provide for that they recommend that the House recede from its non-concurrence in section 2, with the following additional amendment: Insert in line 5, section 2, after the word "interest," the words "or other consideration;" in line 15, section 2, after the word "account," the words "in the Commonwealth;" that the House recede from its non-concurrence in the Senate amendments to section 3, with the following additional amendment: Insert in line 5, section 3, after the word "October," the words "in each and every year;" and that the House recede from its non-concurrence in the Senate amendment inserting section four."

The above report was unanimously signed by the Committee of Conference, and the bill, as amended, ordered to be printed. It will finally pass both Houses to-morrow.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at 7:30 P. M.

The rules was suspended and the following bill passed third reading: Supplementary act prescribing the manner in which courts may divide boroughs into wards—Yeas 132, nays 1.

Letters, petitions, memorials &c., were read and properly referred.

Mr. Carson presented the following petition against the issue of more Pittsburgh bonds.

"The undersigned, property owners in Pittsburgh, respectfully protest and object against the issue of any more municipal bonds or the increase of the city debt, for the following reasons: First, because our municipal taxation has been made oppressive, the value of property depreciated and the city's property seriously impaired by the already inordinate increase of the city debt, and we are well aware that the same will be spent, as in the past, regardless of the city or her taxpayers. Second, because the city, as is well-known, has already exceeded the constitutional limit of indebtedness. The courts on this ground now refuse to approve her bonds for street-opening and the like, without sureties. We, therefore, can not make valid her bonds for additional loans, and any attempt to sell them would be a fraud on the purchasers, as well as on the taxpayers, and render it necessary for us to advertise the public against them in the money markets.

Signed—James Kelly, John Dunlap, Alexander King, Wm. McCully & Co., J. H. Shoenberger, James Laughlin, D. A. Stewart, Hussey, Wells & Co., Bissell & Co., B. L. Fahnestock & Co., and many others.

Mr. Large—Petition of citizens of West Elizabeth praying for the passage of the bituminous ventilation bill.

Concurrent resolution asking Senators and members of Congress to vote for an act equalizing the bounties of soldiers, sailors and marines in the late rebellion.

Mr. Irwin again called up the resolution for the repeal of the Bankrupt law.

Mr. Christy opposed the passage of the resolution.

The yeas and nays were called, and the resolution passed—yeas 96, nays 34.

Reports from Committees—Mr. Hays—Act relating to boarding-house keepers, authorizing the attaching of wages for boarding, not exceeding four weeks. Affirmatively.

Act relating to Sheriff's sales of real estate. Negatively.

Mr. Zern—Act enlarging the jurisdiction of aldermen of cities of the second and third class. This bill gives aldermen enlarged powers and jurisdiction in all cases within three hundred dollars, in Pittsburgh and Allegheny city.

Mr. Christy—Act making appropriations for the payment of printing, stationary and necessary expenses incurred by the Commissioners appointed by the Governor to examine the question of the improvement of the Ohio river.

Act making an appropriation to the Allegheny County Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons.

Act relating to the compensation of county treasurers.

Mr. Henry, of Erie, read in place a supplement to the Wallace act, extending the term of Select Councilmen, in cities of the third class, from two to three years.

The Conference Committee on House bill No. 14, relating to the Sinking Fund, was read in the House and ordered to be printed. The report is the same made in the Senate. The bill will pass the House undoubtedly to-morrow and become a law, when members will receive their salary, and the State institutions their respective appropriations.

A large number of bills passed first reading, after which the House adjourned.

PANIC IN A THEATER

Cincinnati Audience Stampeded by a False Alarm of Fire.

TEN PERSONS REPORTED KILLED.

CINCINNATI, February 5.—The allegory of "The Great Republic" has been upon the stage of Robinson's Opera House for the past two nights, under the auspices of the Cincinnati Relief Union, which intended to apply the proceeds of the performance to the relief of the suffering poor of the city. The performers, numbering nearly six hundred children, were taken from the public schools, and, as the object was a worthy one and the children who took part were those of old residents of the city, large audiences were present at each presentation of the allegory. The weather this afternoon being propitious and the day a school holiday, the matinee audience in most part was composed of women and children. About 2:30 o'clock, while the great house was densely packed and the thousands of children among the audience were at the height of their enjoyment, some boy in the gallery, either through mischief or ignorance, raise the cry of "Fire!" as the red light, from the colored fires used in the piece, flashed out from the wings. Every inch of the theatre was occupied, and a dense crowd was pressing and surging about the doors. Some one in the audience took up the cry, and it was re-echoed from near the door by another person, who had caught a glimpse of the red lights on the stage, and did not know what had caused it. There was an immediate rush for the doors. Many fell and were trampled down the steps and screamed, and immediately afterward a man thrust his arm through the window. The scream and smash were enough, and then began a full force, and in the narrow vestibule leading to the street the scene was a terrible one. The people in the rear, mad with fear, pressed upon those in front, shouting and cursing. Men, terror-stricken, struck down the helpless women and children before them, or climbed over their heads to the top of the staircase, and precipitated themselves upon the screaming and bleeding mass of women and children in the lobby. The awful scene in and about the Opera House after the accident was heartrending. The news of the catastrophe spread like wild-fire over the city, and thousands of frantic men people hurrying to the scene, until the squares were thronged and movement became simply impossible.

At 4 o'clock (P. M.) there are many conflicting stories as to the origin of the panic. The building was filled, from parquet to gallery, with a dense crowd, when not only filled all the seats in the house, but crowded the stairway, and hundreds were outside seeking admission. Behind the scenes were the children about to appear, who were to take part in the performance. As the time approached for the commencement of the exercises, a calcium light in the gallery was thrown upon the audience and immediately a cry of fire was raised. The audience became panic stricken and a rush was made for the exit by way. Some are said to have leaped from the balcony upon the crowd below. The lower circle of the house is but four steps above the floor of the street, and the steps are narrow and soon became blocked by the surging crowd. Inside the house, multitudes were pressing for the door-way, and, in the rush, many women and children were overthrown and trampled under foot. The scene beggars description. An alarm was rapidly spread throughout the city, and those who had wives and children there hurried to their rescue. A few heroic men placed themselves near the doorway and endeavored to assure the people that there was no danger, and an effort was made from the stage to check the mad panic of the affrighted audience, but it was not restored until a number were trampled upon, and many were seriously injured. Those able to walk at once made their way homeward; those more severely injured were taken to the Ninth street Station-house and to the Commercial Hospital, and the dead were gathered in one of the offices of the Opera House.

Up to nine o'clock to-night the following had been reported killed:

Mrs. Alfred White, and her son Harry, aged twelve years.

Mrs. Nancy Clark, reported to have died from heart disease caused by excitement.

August and Fred Loesch, brothers, aged ten and eight years, respectively.

Hattie Leslie, aged twelve years.

James Crowley, aged seven years.

Annie MacKienzi, of Alton, Ill., who was visiting friends here.

Miss Terovica Massatt, aged twenty-two years.

Mrs. Henry Kessler suffered severe concussion of the brain, and it is reported died this evening.

One unknown woman is dead.

Among the injured are Frederick Strasburg, Miss Humphrey, Master Harry Bliss and a child named Coddington; Carry Till, base of skull crushed and collar bone broken; Mrs. Anna Flood, hurt in breast seriously; Mrs. Lyon, injured internally. Mrs. White, who was killed, had five children with her, three of whom was killed. The youngest was found clasped in her arms, uninjured. Mrs. Rikenl, of Alton, was injured and was either pushed over the railing or jumped to the floor below, striking on her head.

The Coroner's inquest will be held on Tuesday, and he will endeavor to ascertain definitely how the alarm originated.

Later information will probably increase the number of the killed and injured.

CINCINNATI, February 6.—Information to night from those injured at Robinson's Opera House yesterday, is favorable. Mrs. Henry Kessler, reported dead, is still living and will recover. Considerable prominence is given to the report that the alarm was started by pickpockets, who intended to profit by the stampede, but this story is generally discredited.

LETTER FROM GENERAL SHERMAN

To Private Dalzell—He Never Was, Is Not Now, and Never Will Be a Candidate for President—Considers Hayes a Good Man for the Place—Favors the Public School System.

COLUMBUS, O., February 3.—Representative James M. Dalzell has just received the following letter from General Sherman:

ST. LOUIS, MO., February 2, 1876.

DEAR SIR: Your kind letter is just received, and though I thought everybody knew fully my position on the points of our inquiry, I cannot hesitate to answer you in such a way as to admit of no misconstruction. I never have been, am not now, and never will be a candidate for the high office of President before any convention or the people. I shall always prefer to see that office filled by one of the millions who in the civil war stood by the Union firmly and unequivocally; and of those I notice many names willing and capable—prominent that of General Hayes, now Governor of Ohio, whom we know as a fine officer and a gentleman in every sense. I do not, however, wish to be misunderstood as presuming to advise anybody in his choice of the man. My wife and family are strong Catholics, but I am not. That, however, is nobody's business. I believe in the common schools, and don't slip the little matters that seem to be aggravated by the press. In some quarters, however, these schools are extravagant, and in Indiana they have taken to the Ninth street Stationhouse and to the Commercial Hospital, and the dead were gathered in one of the offices of the Opera House.

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WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 3, 1876.

The Secretary of the Treasury stated today, before the Committee on Ways and Means, that if the four and a half per cent. bonds were made a thirty-year bond, instead of fifteen, and the aggregate amount increased to $500,000,000, he had no doubt he would be able to negotiate them immediately and continue the retirement of the six per cents. The committee will probably report in accordance with these views.

Resumption in Committee.

The House Committee on Banking and Currency have had several conferences on the specie resumption question. It is intimated that the disposition of the committee is favorable to a repeal of the specie resumption act. It is proposed, however, not to report a bill until the Democratic caucus has reached a conclusion on the subject.

Carrying of Petroleum on Steamers.

The Board of Supervising Inspectors, in session for some days, having disposed of their routine matters, are now considering the carrying of petroleum on passenger steamers. Mr. Herbst, of Pittsburgh, and Merrill, of Boston, have made some experiments before the Board, exhibiting the various qualities of oil. The law requires that no oil shall be carried on passenger steamers which will ignite under 300 degrees. Mr. Herbst's oil flashed at 143 degrees, but was recorded at 301 degrees. The oil exhibited by Mr. Elliott stood a test of 296 degrees. The object in view was to ascertain at what temperature it would be safe to carry oil on passenger steamers. The oil and steamboatmen generally favor a lower temperature. In the Board of Supervisors there exists a wide difference of opinion. Several members are in favor of prohibiting its transportation entirely on passenger steamers. This is deemed inadvisable. The lesson of the Waco disaster some months ago, when not only but some very stringent rule will be adopted. The sub-committee on oil reserve is also giving attention to this subject in connection with the Supervising Inspectors, and will recommend legislation if the case seems to require it.

Bond Forger Captured.

A dispatch received here to-night states that J. Nicholson Elbert, of Philadelphia, the notorious bond forger, for whom the secret service men have been in search for some time, has been arrested in San Francisco, and is now on his way in the custody of a secret service man *en route* for New York for trial.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 4, 1876.

Coinage Returns from the Mints.

The Director of the Mint is in receipt of the coinage returns from the mints at San Francisco and Carson City, which show silver $4,056,000 pieces, of $473,000 value, mostly in dimes, and gold, $2,109,180. The returns of the mint at Philadelphia have not yet been received, that establishment being like the others, closed for the day and last. It is estimated, however, that the returns will show about 3,713,000 pieces, of about $500,000. The accumulation of silver coin in the Treasury is now over thirty millions, in view of an early redemption of the fractional currency now in circulation.

Bogus Appointments to Official Position.

Quite a number of persons have assumed to be appointed to civil positions, and have addressed communications to the heads of departments, asking a list of names, residences and by whom recommended for appointment to the respective States. To some of these, answers have been received, and among these Pennsylvania. Upon a careful scrutiny of the list of names sent in for inquiry, bogus named names have been found of persons charged against Pennsylvania. These persons, from the States of Virginia, Columbia and the adjacent States of Virginia and Maryland. It has been found that they derived their appointments, not upon the recommendation of a Senator or Representative or other citizen of the State, but through some chief of bureau or division, and are, in not a few instances, the children or relatives of the personal friend of these officers. Not only is this the case, but to be a Democrat is no recommendation for appointment. It is proposed to go for this small army of surreptitious appointees.

The Democrats Conclude to Let Themselves Out—Louisiana, Mississippi and States Rights Are Rebuked—Franking Privilege to be Revived, &c., &c.

The Democrats of both Houses have been in consultation recently on the situation, and have come to the conclusion that it is time to adopt a decided policy. In regard to the Pinchback matter, it was determined to-night that the debate shall be very brief, and, if possible, therefore, may be expected that the whole Louisiana matter will be again discussed. The Democrats have determined also that they will institute an aggressive policy in debate, and will report on all occasions on political matters brought up by the Republicans. It is understood that the franking privilege is to be revived for the purpose of disseminating the political views of Congress. Political speeches are considered valuable as campaign documents. To this, it is not supposed there will not be any objection from the Republican side, as it will be used by the friends of both parties. It is now probable that Morton's Mississippi resolutions will also be discussed at length. The debate upon State rights resolutions will not come off probably till toward the close of the session, so as to have more effect on the Presidential election.

Republicans also in Conference — They are Ready to Reduce their Salaries.

There has also been some conference among the Republicans in regard to matters before Congress, but of a somewhat informal character. In regard to the reduction of salaries of members of Congress, there is a very strong disposition among the Republicans to see the Democrats and go them one better. If the House sends a bill reducing the salaries of members of Congressmen, there will be a motion to amend by providing that members of Congress shall serve without any pay whatever, with a strong probability of its being carried.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, February 6, 1876.

Abolition of Customs Offices.

The Secretary of the Treasury will shortly transmit to Congress a list of fifty-seven customs offices which do not pay expenses, the majority of which will be recommended for abolition. Those already mentioned in the list are in Pennsylvania. Seventeen are in New England, five in the Middle and the remainder in the Southern States.

Republicanism in New Jersey.

Ex-Governor Ward, of New Jersey, who has been in the city for several days, gives a very satisfactory account of the political situation in his State. He says that, unless some very reckless mismanagement on the part of the Republican leaders in Congress and in the State is fallen into, the State will roll up a handsome majority for the Republican candidate for the Presidency. He says that the performances of the Democratic majority have so disgusted the people of the State with the Government and the prosperity of the people rests in the continuance of the Republican party in power. He says that the Republican party, in the elections of 1876, will be as great, if not greater than the Democratic majority two years ago. In regard to the particular individual named for the Presidential nominations, he does not think that the Republicans of New Jersey have any preferences. All they desire is the nomination of a candidate who will fully represent the principles of the party.

Western Judicial District of Pennsylvania.

The Senate Committee on Judiciary have decided to report favorably on the bill retiring Judge McCandless. It is intimated from an authoritative source that the appointment will not be given to a resident of Pittsburgh, though any of the gentlemen mentioned in these dispatches some days since as considered in that connection, are recognized as fully qualified. It now seems as if the appointment would be given to Representative W. W. Ketchum, of the Luzerne district. Judge Scofield is his chief competitor.

United States Depository at Pittsburgh.

The Committee on Appropriations have taken no decided action on the abolition of the United States Depository at Pittsburgh. In the suggestions of Treasurer New also, where reductions could be made, he mentioned this one office which could be dispensed with, and it is possible that the Committee may so decide, though the Chairman stated to-day that it was not certain.

Texas and Pacific Railroad.

The report of the sub-committee charged with the consideration of the Texas and Pacific Railroad bill, has been completed and will be submitted to the general committee on Wednesday. The report urges Government aid on the ground that the construction of the road is in the interest of the people and of the Government, and will stimulate industry and restore activity in parts of the country where great depression now exists. The bill which accompanies the report provides that bonds executed by the Company shall be deposited with the Secretary of the Treasury, at the rate of $40,000 per mile, payable in gold fifty years after date, at five per cent. interest, in coin, guaranteed by the United States; out of this principal $6,000 per mile to be retained in the Treasury as a security for the payment of the interest as it shall mature; in default of which these bonds can be sold to make it up.

Consolidation of Offices.

The Appropriation Committee to-day considered the practicability of consolidating the Customs and Internal Revenue Bureaus. The feeling was in favor of some measure of this kind, but it was not clear how it could be brought about. The consolidation of the Internal Revenue Districts under the order of the Secretary of the Treasury, has worked excellently and it is believed that a score or more of collectors could be dispensed with.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 5, 1876.

WEEKLY TREASURY STATEMENT.

The balance in the Treasury at the close of business to-day were as follows: Currency, $11,706,760; special deposit of legal tenders for the redemption of certificates of deposit, $41,410,000; coin, including $34,694,700 in coin certificates, $78,420,389; outstanding legal tenders, $371,273,140.

The Comptroller of the Currency to-day authorized the First National Bank of Wilson, N. C., with a capital of $50,000 to commence business.

The Treasurer now holds $361,033,462 to secure the national bank circulation and $18,621,500 to secure public deposits. National bank circulation outstanding, $342,869,035, of which amount $2,100,085 are gold notes.

The receipts from internal revenue today were $615,587.58; for the month to date, $1,559,601.36; for the fiscal year to date, $63,573,749 21. Receips from customs to-day, $822,127 32; for the month to date, $2,462,788 46; for the fiscal year to date, $89,236,634 39. Treasury shipments of fractional currency and legal tender notes for the week ending to-day, $1,471,265. Receipts of fractional currency, $1,261,200.

The receipts of national bank notes forwarded for redemption for the week ending to-day, as compared with the corresponding week of last year were as follows.

	1876.	1875.
New York	$1,892,000	$1,268,000
Boston	302,000	1,381,000
Philadelphia	175,000	90,000
Chicago	99,000	91,000
Cincinnati	99,000	83,000
Miscellaneous	694,000	819,000
Total	$3,253,000	$4,731,000

The receipts to-day were $489,373.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 4, 1876.

A WEEKLY LIST OF UNITED STATES PATENTS

issued to the inventors of Pennsylvania and Ohio, for the week ending February 1, 1876. Reported by telegraph expressly for the COMMERCIAL, by A. H. Evans & Co., Patent Solicitors, May Building, Washington, D. C.:

PENNSYLVANIA.

G. R. Moore, Philadelphia—Stowe grate.

W. J. Gordon, Philadelphia—Can soldering iron.

L. O. Orton, Philadelphia—Setting teeth of saws.

H. M. Chapmen, Philadelphia—Corsets.

E. Deetz, Philadelphia—Portable chambers.

C. H. Kelly, Pittsburgh—Car brake.

J. G. Lefler, Philadelphia—Band for vehicle wheels.

E. A. Princen and C. A. Hart, Philadelphia—Flag staff holder.

J. Fisher, Harrisburg—Brick machine.

S. A. Brumbaugh, Harrisburg—Paper clip and weight.

J. C. Riethmuller, Allegheny—Bale tie.

C. Rogers, Allegheny—Valve for engines.

H. Kirk, Pittsburgh—Reversible gas latch.

T. B. Atterbury, Pittsburgh—Manufacture of wax ears.

M. Ball and W. Owen, Sharon—Drilling machine.

J. Fink, Reading—Refrigerator (2 cases.)

A. Harbison, New Castle—Swarm boxes.

J. D. Hunter, Wilkinsburg—Bale spooler.

T. Humphries, Easton—Shears.

E. R. Blood, Erie—Oil stove.

Reissue—J. Kelly, Allegheny, Pittsburgh—Manufacture of smoke bells.

Design—J. Kelly, Philadelphia—Seattle.

Design—G. W. Gill, Philadelphia—Socket.

J. T. Nanety, Philadelphia—Badge.

L. Mack, Philadelphia—Pipes.

J. Prosser, Pittsburgh—Glass dish.

Trade Mark—T. Dunham & Son, Philadelphia—Flour.

OHIO.

J. M. White, Springfield—Harrow.

J. F. Abbott, Cleveland—Lamp. Cleveland—Eaves trough hanger.

E. W. Cole, Circleville—Pan lifter.

J. Gallicher, Canton—Machine for mining coal, &c.

W. F. Mann, Columbus—Wind mill.

R. S. Sisson, Cincinnati—Ratchet.

R. S. Sisson, Cincinnati—Combination lock.

L. J. Baldwin, Weston—Tongs.

W. Fraser, Cincinnati—Steering vessels.

O. Joyce, Dayton—Lifting jack (2 cases).

J. Beeman and G. A. Phifer, Ironton—Grappling hooks.

W. Franz, Bucyrus—Knitting machine.

W. F. Hall, Cincinnati—Paint compound.

M. Stone, Berlin Heights—Harvester guard fingers.

H. L. Whitting, Salon—Tinners' fire pot.

J. J. Yuncher, Mansfield—Fruit drier.

Reissue—J. Armstrong, Toledo—Feed water heater.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

MANIFESTO FROM THE RITUALISTS.

LONDON, February 4.—Rev. Alexander H. Mackonochie, of the noted High Church of St. Albans, Brooke, sends to the newspapers to-day a document, signed by about a hundred prominent Ritualist clergymen, fairly representative men, including most, if not all, who have been subjected to ecclesiastical penalties, declining connection or sympathy with any movement looking to the subordination of Anglican Ritualists to Papacy; declaring the basis for such negotiation impossible in the present state of Convocation, and repudiating as much hostility to the Queen's supremacy as they were promulgated. The author of the original letter to Cardinal Manning, which first gave color to the report, was the *Morning Post* to-day, over the same pseudonym, "Presbyter Anglicanus," saying that the letter originated with himself and that he spoke only for himself. Renewed attention and discussion of the subject have been awakened by Lord Penzance's decision, yesterday, in the Falkestone ritual case, the first sent under the Public Worship Regulation act. The decision declares illegal the use of the crucifix and stations of the cross and solitary communion. Rev. Mr. Ridsdale, the successful defendant, is one of the signers of Mackonochie's manifesto.

Spain.

REPORTED COLLAPSE OF CARLISM AND FLIGHT OF DON CARLOS.

PARIS, February 4.—The *Bien Public* says it has received intelligence of the complete defeat of the Carlists. It also stated that Don Carlos has fled and is expected to take refuge on French territory.

THE REPORT DWINDLING.

MADRID, February 4.—The Government has advices that the Carlists have destroyed the railroad between Manufacory at Vera and that many have fled to France.

ENOUGH CARLISTS LEFT TO FIGHT.

H

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 8, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 11 A. M., the Lieutenant Governor in the chair. A large number of petitions were presented and properly referred.

Reports of Committees—Mr. Lawrence, from the Special Committee appointed to investigate the affairs of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, presented a minority report.

By Mr. Ruhan—Bill authorizing the Commissioners of the several counties of the State to fix the compensation for light, rent and fuel for election districts in their respective counties.

Bills Introduced—Mr. Strang—Authorizing the Governor to appoint a commission to advise a plan or plans for the government of the cities of the Commonwealth.

Also an act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of commercial companies, and also of companies to receive and execute trusts.

Mr. Anderson, of Allegheny—Asking an appropriation for the propagation of fish in the Delaware, and for the exhibition of fish at the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia.

Mr. Jones—Act establishing industrial or technical schools in cities of the first and second classes. Section 1 provides that the School Department may accept land in fee for the erection of technical schools. The Governor shall appoint thirteen trustees. One hundred thousand dollars are appropriated for the purpose of erecting buildings and furnishing such schools.

Mr. Strang—Act to provide for changing the location of the principal offices of certain corporations, with the assent of one-quarter of the holders of the capital stock.

Mr. Shiner—Act relative to the valuation of real estate for purposes of taxation.

Mr. Lawrence—Act to repeal so much of the act to authorize railroad corporations to secure the payment of their bonds and obligations by mortgage upon their property, rights and franchises, as may be necessary to relieve narrow gauge railroads of fifty miles or less in length and with a subscribed capital stock of less than $500,000.

Bills on Third Reading—Act regulating passenger fares and freight rates on railroads not exceeding fifteen miles in length. Passed.

Act to enable citizens of the United States to hold and convey titles which had been held by aliens and corporations not authorized by law to hold the same. Passed.

Act conferring equity jurisdiction upon Courts of Common Pleas in all cases of mortgages of property and franchises by railroad, canal or navigation companies. Passed.

Act relating to landlords and tenants of dwelling houses holding mortgages on manufactures of coal mines. Postponed.

Act for the prevention of horses, cattle, sheep and swine running at large in the various townships of the Commonwealth, when a majority of voters thereof shall so decide. Defeated.

Supplementary act designating the several classes of contested elections in the Commonwealth and providing for the trial thereof; providing for the payment of costs in contested elections when the Court decides that the complaint is not without probable cause. Passed.

Act relating to costs in criminal cases. Recommitted to the Judiciary Committee.

Supplementary act relative to public burial grounds and cemeteries situated in incorporated boroughs; changing the title of said act and authorizing the court to make the orders and decrees required by the act and enforce the same by process. Passed.

Act relating to the payment of licenses for bowling alleys, taverns, eating-houses and restaurants. Recommitted to the Finance Committee.

H. L. Snyder, of Osceola, Clearfield county, was nominated by the Governor as a notary public.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at 10 A. M.

Mr. Lusk, from the Committee on Ways and Means, on leave, reported, with affirmative recommendation, an act to impose a tax on derricks, oil tanks, &c., for county purposes.

Bills on Third Reading—Act to provide for the erection of watering troughs for the use of horses and cattle on public roads. Postponed for the present.

Act relative to damages on mesne profits. Passed.

Supplementary to the act to provide for the appointment of a special detective officer in any of the several counties of the Commonwealth. Amended to make its provisions apply only to detectives appointed under the act of 1874, to which this is a supplement. It was then laid over under the rule.

Act empowering camp meeting associations to employ a police force. Passed.

Act providing for the entry of satisfaction of judgments which have been fully paid by defendants. Passed.

Act fixing the number, duties and compensation of officers and employees of the Senate and House of Representatives, outlining all salaries. Defeated—yeas 72, nays 79.

Mr. Christy then moved that the House reconsider the vote just taken, by which the bill was defeated, which was not agreed to, thus disposing of the matter finally.

Bills on Second Reading—Act empowering Councils of cities of the second class of this Commonwealth to prescribe by ordinance the salary to be paid out of the City Treasury to the Mayor, Controller, Treasurer and all other officers and clerks thereof, said cities respectively, in lieu of all fees, fines and costs; the manner in which said salaries shall be paid; and directing all fees, fines and costs to be paid into the City Treasury. Passed.

Act regulating the publication of accounts and financial statements of school boards. Laid over.

Mr. Talley called up the report of the Conference Committee on the Finance bill.

Mr. Lusk moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. Spicer submitted his objection to the report at length.

The report was adopted and the bill passed—yeas 152, nays 19.

The bill as passed is as follows:

An act supplementary to the act entitled, "An act supplementary to the several acts relating to the State Treasurer and Commissioners of the Sinking Fund," approved the ninth, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted, etc.*, That the sinking fund shall consist of the proceeds of the sale of the public works or any part thereof, income or proceeds of the sale of any stocks owned by the Commonwealth, and two-thirds of all the tax on the capital stock of all corporations of this Commonwealth. The general revenue fund shall consist of one-third of all the taxes on the capital stock of corporations and all other revenues of the Commonwealth: *Provided, however*, That for the fiscal year ending November thirtieth, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six, two-thirds of the amount derived from the tax on the capital stock of corporations shall be paid into the general revenue fund, and the remaining one-third into the sinking fund: *Provided*, That this act shall not be construed as to authorize the use or application of any moneys which under existing laws have already been paid into the sinking fund, otherwise than in the extinguishment of the public debt, unless in case of war, invasion or insurrection.

SEC. 2. That the State Treasurer shall, on the first Monday in January, in each year, render a statement of account to the Auditor General, giving in detail sums paid into and out of the bank up the grand total of the amount on that day in the State Treasury, belonging exclusively to the sinking fund; which statement shall include the names of banks, corporations, firms or individuals with whom the moneys of said fund are deposited, with the various amounts of such deposits, the securities held by or for the State for the safe keeping of the same, and the rate of interest or other consideration, if any, received on said deposits; and shall be verified by the oath or affirmation of the State Treasurer and recorded in a book kept for that purpose in the Auditor General's office, and shall be open for the inspection of the several heads of departments, members of the Legislature, or any citizen of the State desiring to inspect the same; and each bank, corporation, firm or individual with whom such moneys are deposited shall render, on the first Monday of each month, an account to the Auditor General, corresponding to that of the State Treasurer, giving the amount of such moneys deposited during the month, the amount then on deposit, the rate of interest, if any, paid on such deposit and the security held by the State for the keeping of such moneys.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the State Treasurer to render a statement to the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund on the first business day of January, April, July and October, in each and every year, giving the balance remaining in the sinking fund to the credit of the amount required to pay the interest on the public debt, whereupon the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund shall authorize the purchase by the fiscal agent of the Commonwealth of such amount of the Commonwealth next maturing at their market rates, *Provided*, Such purchase can be made to the interests of the Commonwealth; *Provided further*, That all such investments shall be made only by the cashier, by said agent, and the certificate of the same forwarded to the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, in like manner as in case of such loan had been redeemed by the State.

SEC. 4. The State Treasurer shall, in his monthly report to the Auditor General, take credit for the amount of such purchases made by the said fiscal agent, and the rate and amount of premium, if any, paid for such purchases.

SEC. 5. All laws or parts of laws inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

The House then adjourned.

The Legislative Apportionment Committee will return to the House to-morrow, with a negative recommendation, the act regulating the representation and election of members of Select Council of the several wards of cities of the second class of the Commonwealth. This virtually kills the bill. It would now require a two-thirds vote to pass it in the House, which insures its defeat and will leave the representation of the Select Council of Pittsburgh the same as at present.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 9, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 11 A. M., Lieutenant Governor Latta in the chair.

Mr. Strang, from the Committee of Conference on the part of the Senate on the bill diverting moneys from the sinking fund to the general fund, moved that the report of the Committee of Conference be adopted. The report was adopted by a vote of 28 yeas to 8 nays.

Reports of Committees—Act to exempt persons who religiously observe the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath Day, from the penalties of the act of April 22, 1794.

Act to provide for changing the location of the principal offices of certain corporations.

Supplementary to the act regulating elections in the State.

Act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of commercial companies, and also companies to receive and execute trusts.

Act to give two hundred dollars to each surviving volunteer soldier of Pennsylvania in the Mexican war, and making an appropriation therefor. Reported negatively and recommitted, on motion of Mr. Bussey.

Bills Introduced—Mr. Albright—Further supplement to the act to consolidate, revise and amend the penal laws of the Commonwealth, approved March 31, 1860, defining and providing for the punishment of the offense of unlawfully obtaining the key or means of opening any bank vault, safe or depository.

Act requiring the statement of bank and banking companies made to the Auditor General to be published.

Mr. Clarke offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

That the Committee on Public Printing be instructed to inquire into the cause of the delay in printing the Governor's message in the German and Welsh languages.

Mr. Winslow reported a joint resolution for the adjournment of the Legislature on the 28th of March, with an amendment that the Legislature adjourn finally April 6.

Mr. Ermentrout moved to amend so as to adjourn March 23, which motion prevailed and the resolution was sent to the House for concurrence.

Bills Passed Finally—Enabling assignees for the benefit of creditors to make sale of real estate encumbered by liens.

For promoting the qualifications of engineers of stationary engines and securing the safety of persons employed in and about the anthracite coal mines of Pennsylvania.

To abolish attorney fees on all judgments under one hundred dollars entered on warrants of attorney.

Relative to persons writing threatening letters.

Bills on Second Reading—To define and suppress vagrancy. Amended and laid over.

Supplement to the act, approved April 29, 1874, to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations, authorizing the formation of certain wharf companies and corporations for the encouragement and protection of trade and commerce. Amended and laid over.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at 10 A. M.

The Sergeant-at-Arms, in compliance with the command of the Speaker, submitted a report with reference to the violation of Rule 43, prohibiting tobacco smoking in the hall, which was read and, on motion of Mr. Irwin, of Allegheny, referred to the Committee on Vice and Immorality.

Mr. Wolfe read in place a bill relative to the erection of piers in rivers.

Mr. Leach—Act relating to certain mechanical associations.

Bills on Second Reading—Act authorizing appeals in cases of summary conviction and judgment in suits for a penalty before magistrate or courts not of record. Passed. The bill provides that in all cases of summary conviction before a magistrate or courts not of record the parties may, within five days, appeal to the Court of Quarter Sessions.

Act to regulate the publication of accounts and financial statements of school boards. Passed. The bill applies only to such counties or cities as have no separate school districts.

Act to amend and the act conferring upon courts of quarter sessions the power to appoint the land of persons resident in one district, to another district, so as to allow the annexation of lands in a township or borough to a city containing less than ten thousand inhabitants. Passed.

Act authorizing the appointment of chaplains for the Senate and House of Representatives for each regular and adjourned annual session, and providing for their compensation. Passed. The bill fixes the compensation at three hundred dollars for each regular and adjourned session.

Act fixing the compensation of witnesses for the probate of wills. Passed.

Supplement to the act providing for the taxation of bank shares. Postponed for the present.

Act to provide for the equalization of taxes on machinery in the Commonwealth. Postponed for the present.

Act authorizing the payment of unexpended balances of the deficiencies funds into the treasury of the school fund in the districts in which such county funds were raised. Postponed indefinitely.

Act to revise, amend, and to consolidate, revise and amend the penal laws of the Commonwealth. Passed.

Act in relation to appeals from the judgment of justices of the peace and aldermen in the Commonwealth for wages of manual labor. Passed.

Act to repeal the act to fix the mileage and change the time for meeting of Directors of the Poor in Huntingdon county. Passed.

Act to enable the common council in cities of the third class to designate work on public improvements as a part of the punishment imprisoned for violation of city ordinances. Postponed for the present.

Act authorizing the State educational bodies of convicts and others for the promotion of medical sciences. Passed.

Act to regulate the practice of dentistry, and protect the people against empiricism in relation thereto. Pending the consideration of this bill, the House adjourned.

WASHINGTON

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 8, 1876.

Proposed Reduction of Appropriations.

The Democratic party is going to begin to show signs of weakening on the ill-considered reductions proposed by the Committee on Appropriations. This was shown by Wood and Hewitt, of New York, to-day, both of whom were very emphatic in their declarations that the policy would inevitably be to give other nations advantage over the United States diplomatically and commercially.

Transportation of Animals.

The House Committee on Agriculture, in considering the transportation of animals, do not see that the patent cars recommended by Colonel Thomas A. Scott would obviate the evils complained of. The railroad men oppose frequent removals from the cars, on account of the expense of handling them.

Repeal of Bankrupt Act.

The passage to-day by the House of a bill to repeal the Bankrupt act, to take effect January 1, 1877, occasioned surprise. The repeal is absolute, except that all suits and proceedings now pending, wherein an adjudication of bankruptcy has been made, shall be proceeded with and governed by the provisions of existing laws, which are continued in force for the purpose of closing up suit.

Two House Clerks.

Two of the clerks dismissed from the Postoffice Department on account of complicity in the Hines frauds, have been appointed to office under the House.

The President's Private Secretary.

Ulysses S. Grant, Jr., second son of the President, is acting as Secretary of the President, pro tempore, in the absence of the Secretary as a witness in the Babcock trial. Mr. Grant is a graduate of Harvard and about twenty-two years of age.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 9, 1876.

The Party of Real Reform.

That the Republican party is the party of real reform, is shown in the course of the higher officers of the executive departments, in the full information which has been uniformly transmitted to the House in response to Congressional calls of inquiry. During the Chairmanship of Mr. Garfield, upward of twenty-five millions were cut off as appropriations at the beginning. It was his policy to bring the Government down to the minimum of expenditures by degrees, but at the same time recognizing the necessities of the service and its efficiency. In many of the proposed reductions, the House Committee on Appropriations have had the co-operation of the heads of departments, subject to the extent of pointing out to what extent they might go judiciously; beyond that point they act upon their own responsibility. The demoralization of the old Government business, on account of delay incident to inadequate means, may be anticipated. The Chairman proposes a deficiency bill for the ordinary internal revenue service of one million dollars during the present session, and another million next session. The present cost of collection of internal taxes is five millions. Upon the suggestion of the Commissioner, in addition to the abolition of the supervisors it is proposed to enlarge the districts of collectors and, by this means, reduce their numbers and the expense incident thereto. Much of the business will also be assigned to other branches of the Government.

Condition of Southern Affairs.

Senator Patterson, of South Carolina, in conversation to-day said that he did not believe in sending more troops to the South, but that those that are there should not be withdrawn. The poor whites and colored men need protection from the lawless and domineering spirit of the higher classes. South Carolina, Mississippi and Georgia and other Southern States, were Republican, but could not so express themselves, from fear of the ruling class.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 8, 1876.

THE DEMOCRATIC FINANCIAL POLICY.

The adjourned meeting of the Democratic Congressional Caucus, which was to have been held to-night, was to-day postponed till Thursday, owing to the sickness of Representative Lamar. It will be recollected that, at the meeting a week ago, Representative Landers introduced the discussion his House bill to repeal the act providing for the resumption of specie payment, and that Representative Payne offered, as a substitute, his House bill providing for a gradual resumption of specie payment. These propositions being antagonistic, some Democratic members are desirous of avoiding a vote upon them in caucus, nor caring to commit themselves at present to any financial policy. They therefore predict that the propositions will not be directly voted upon, but referred to the Committee of Consultation.

LETTER FROM JEFF DAVIS.

His Compliments to Mr. Blaine.

Exchange of Prisoners Discussed.

Sufferings of Confederates in Northern Prisons.

Southern People Have Forgotten and Forgiven Many Causeless Wrongs Committed by Their Invaders.

Jefferson Refused Pardon in Fortress Monroe and Still Refuses.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 6.—Jefferson Davis has written the following letter to Judge Lyons, of Richmond, Va.:

NEW ORLEANS, January 27.

Hon. James Lyons:

MY DEAR FRIEND—Your very kind letter of the 14th inst. was forwarded from Memphis and has been received at this place. I have been so long the object of malignant slander and the subject of unscrupulous falsehood by partisans of the class of Mr. Blaine, that, though I cannot say it has become to me a matter of indifference, it has ceased to excite my surprise. Even in this instance, when it reaches the extremity of accusing me of cruelty to prisoners, what matters it to one whose object is personal and party advantage, that the records, both Federal and Confederate, disprove the charge that the country is full of witnesses who bear oral testimony against it, and that the effort to revive the bitter animosities of the war obstructs progress toward the reconciliation of sections? It is enough for him if his self-seeking purpose be promoted. It would, however, seem probably that such expectations must be disappointed, for only those who are wilfully blind can fail to see, in the circumstances of the case, the fallacy of Mr. Blaine's statements. The published [illegible] under sentence of death, promising him pardon if he would criminate me in regard to the Andersonville prisoners, conclusive as to the wish of the Government to make such a charge against me; and the failure to do so shows that nothing could be found to sustain it. May we not say the evidence of innocence was such that Holt and Conover, with their trained band of suborned witnesses, dared not make against me this charge, which Wirtz, for his life, would not make—but which Blaine, for a Presidential nomination, has made?

Now let us review the leading facts of the case. The report of the Confederate Commissioner for an exchange of prisoners shows how persistent and liberal were our efforts to secure the release of captives. Failing in those attempts, Assistant-Adjutant General R. E. Lee to go under a flag of truce and seek an interview with General Dana, to endeavor to effect the exchange, and death of Federal prisoners held by us to explain the causes which were beyond our control, and to urge, in the name of humanity, that measures be adopted for an exchange of prisoners. To this, as to all previous appeals, a deaf ear was turned. I will not attempt, from memory, to write the report made to me of the incidents of this mission. Lee no longer lives to defend the cause and country he loved so well and served so effectually, but General Dana could tell how powerful for an extraordinary a visit, and his objections to executing the cartel are well known to the public. But, whoever else may choose to misrepresent the facts in regard, the prisoners at Andersonville and the delegates I permitted them to send to President Lincoln to plead for a resumption of the assimilable relations which fail to remember how willing I was to restore them to their homes and to the comforts of which they were in need, provided the insuperable difficulties to the Confederacy should be in like manner released and returned to us.

The foul accusation, though directed specially against me, was no doubt intended as—and naturally must be—the arraignment of the South, by whose authority and in whose behalf my deeds were done. It may be presumed that the feelings and the hatred of the Southern soldiery are understood by me, and in that connection any fair mind would perceive in my congratulatory orders to the army, after a victory in which Yankee troops were commended for their tenderness and generosity to the wounded and other captives, as well the instincts of the person who issued the order, as the kindly tone and temper of the soldiers to whom it was addressed.

It is admitted that the prisoners in our hands were not as well provided for as we would like to have seen them, but it is claimed that we did as well for them as we could. Can the other side say as much? To the bold allegations of ill-treatment of prisoners by our people, I have opposed a direct and adequate supplies by our opponents, it is only necessary to offer two facts:

First, it appears from the reports of the United States Sanitary Commission that, though we had sixty thousand more Federal prisoners than they had of Confederates in Northern prisons.

Second, the want and suffering of men in our Northern prisons caused me to ask for permission to purchase cotton and buy supplies for them. The request was granted, but only on condition that the cotton should be sent to New York and that the agent should be under General Beale, now of St. Louis, was authorized to purchase and distribute the needful supplies. Our sympathy rose with the occasion and we responded to the demands, not waiting for ten years, then to vaunt itself when it could serve no good purpose to the sufferers.

Under the ennobling influences of time and occasional demonstrations at the North of a desire for the restoration of peace and good will, the Southern people have forgiven much, have forgotten more of the wrongs they bore. If it be less so among their invaders, it is but another example of the rule that the wrongdoer is less able to forgive than he who has suffered comparatively wrong. It is not, however, generally among those who braved the hazards of battle that unrelenting vindictiveness is to be found—generous foes are always gentle. It is the skulkers of the fight, the Blaines, who display their flag on an untried field. It is these who would now prevent the separation of the States; why should they be expected to promote the confidence and good will essential to their union?

When closely confined at Fortress Monroe, I was solicited to add my name to those of many esteemed gentlemen, who had signed a petition for my release. Then I was assured that on my doing so the President would order my liberation. Confident in the justice of our cause and the rectitude of our conduct, I declined to sign the petition and remained subject to the inexcusable privations and tortures which Dr. Craven has but faintly described. When, after two years of close confinement, I was admitted to bail, as often required as preliminary to trial under the indictment found against me, but in which Mr. Blaine's fictions do not appear. The indictment was finally quashed, on no application of mine, and I was released without bail and without trial upon any charge the General Government might choose to bring against me, and have no view of the future which can lead it desirable to prosecute. As to an amnesty bill. Viewed in the abstract, or as a general question, I would be glad to see the repeal of all laws inflicting the penalty of assassination upon the citizens of the people, that it might, as prescribed by the Constitution, be left to the courts to hear and decide the causes to affix the penalties and to execute the existing legislation. The discrimination made against our people is unjust and impolitic. If the fact be equality and the purpose be fraternity among citizens, the United States, convict without a hearing, *without jurisdiction* and affixing penalties by *ex post facto* legislation are part of a proceeding which has not its appropriate end in the assumption by Congress of the executive function of granting pardons. To remove political disabilities which Congress has no legal power to impose, was not an act of so much grace as to form a plausible pretext for the reckless diatribe of Mr. Blaine.

The papers preserved by Dr. Stevenson happily furnish proof of the utter falsity of disease and death at Andersonville. They are now, I believe, in Richmond, and it is to be hoped that their publication will not be much longer delayed, that this may not a taste for recrimination, though the sad recitals made by our soldiers returned from Northern prisons can never be forgotten, and yet, for the honor of the human race and the censorious publication which was uttered against me because I would not visit on the living the barbarities so, according to reports, had been inflicted upon our men.

Imprisonment is a hard lot at best, and prisoners are prone to exaggerate their sufferings and dwell upon the worst side of sides. But we did not seek, by reports of committees, with photographic illustrations, to inflame the passions of our people. Now was with every effort to find one example suffice. You may remember a published report of a committee of the United States Congress, which was sent to Andersonville to visit some exchanged prisoners, and which had appended to it photographs of some emaciated subjects, which were offered as samples of the prisoners returned from the South. When a copy of that report was received, I sent it to Col. Ould, Commissioner for exchange of prisoners, and requested, as a favor, that the photographs had been taken from men who were in our hospitals when they were liberated for exchange, and whom the hospital surgeon regarded as convalescent, but too weak to be removed with safety to themselves. The anxiety of the prisoners to be sent to their homes had proved over [illegible] the objections of the surgeon. But this is not all; for I have recently learned, from a priest who was then at Annapolis, that the same wretched looking of these photographs was taken from a man who had never been a prisoner, but who had been left on the "sick list" at Annapolis when the last exchange took place. He was attached had passed that place on its southward march. Whatever may be said in extenuation of such imposture because of the exigencies of war, there can be no such excuse now for the attempt of Mr. Blaine, by gross misrepresentation and slanderous accusation, to revive the worst passions of the war, and it is to be hoped that, much as the event is to be regretted, it will have the good effects of reviving truthful statements in regard to this little-understood subject from men who would have preferred to leave their sorrowful story untold, if the subject could have been allowed peacefully to sink into oblivion. Mutual respect is essential to a friendly union; and when slander is promulgated from high places, the public welfare demands that truth should strip falsehood of its power for evil.

I am, very respectfully and truly, your friend,

[Signed] JEFFERSON DAVIS.

PLYMOUTH CHURCH SCANDAL.

Another Important Witness Testifies.

Bowen, the Silent, Unlocks His Secret,

And Pronounces His Pastor Guilty of Adultery, Perjury and Hypocrisy.

NEW YORK, February 4.—To-night Mr. Henry C. Bowen presented a letter to the Examining Committee of Plymouth Church in answer to the grievances of Mr. S. V. White, a member of said church. It commences by saying that the church once unanimously acquitted him of slandering the pastor. At that time he was charged with talking too much; now the charge is that he is talking too little. His silence was based upon the "tripartite agreement" to bury the past and keep silent in the future. He relates the substance of interviews with Mr. White, and says: "I felt at first, as I do now, that Mr. White, the Examining Committee and Plymouth Church could be better employed in investigating direct charges against the pastor, made in the plainest language—charges embracing the [illegible] than in skirmishing about in new fields to see if a few more persons could not be scared up in some way drawn or driven into the difficulty. For more than twenty-five years' connection with Plymouth Church I have heard many a sad story, from many a sad heart; some for loss of property; some for loss of their dearest earthly friends, and some for the loss of character—a greater loss than all. May God forgive me if I have ever done wrong in listening to one single case thus presented! But for thus doing, and that only, I assert that I have been unceremoniously summoned to appear before this committee, and here and I now most solemnly declare that the only basis for Mr. White's grievances against me. Whether he will have other grievances against me after hearing me at this time, remains to be seen.

"But let me now ask a few questions. Who comes here to quote the words of slander which I have before uttered against the pastor? Who says I have spoken in any way, except by silence, injured him? Let me ask, Has Henry Ward Beecher any grievances against me? If so, has he ever brought them before the proper tribunal? Others, as you know, have in the plainest English charged Mr. Beecher with both adultery and perjury. They have challenged investigation by church or in council, and hardly awhisper has been heard in reply. Where was the valiant Mr. S. V. White all this time? Where the good Plymouth Church members, who now summon these accusers into a court of justice and there demand the evidence on which these charges of adultery and perjury are based? Has a move made? If he is absolutely innocent, why do you not act as if you believed it and thus put an end to this horrible scandal? If he is a pure man, here was the straight road out of all difficulties. You have unfortunately, in my opinion, chosen a different course.

"Mr. White says there is one too many in Plymouth Church at one end or the other. He does not state that at one end of the church sands a man openly charged with adultery and hypocrisy, and that at the other end a man charged only with the mere grievance of silence. He does not propose to arraign and faithfully try the former charge with the awful crime of adultery, but to drag before you the man who by his silence has actually led people to believe he did know something about it. Such a perversion of justice, impartiality, brotherly love and fair dealing I commend to your respectful consideration.

"But a long ago told that it was the secret intention of the church to destroy me if possible, and that I was in any event to be driven from its communion. I could not believe it then, and I do not believe it now. For more than a year past it has been evident to me and to others that this serious threat would sooner or later be put into execution. But [illegible] was time to act. The following tells the whole story. From that day to this I have been wholly and unaligned to be assailed in my business affairs, all sorts of crimes and misdemeanors have been charged or hinted at and I have been held up to the world as a man in all ways unworthy of either respect or public confidence. Every one of these charges or insinuations I now pronounce to be totally false in that I am aware of, and I hereby challenge Plymouth Church to appoint its own committee to investigate, openly and rigorously, my words and my deeds, either for one or for all the time to the day of my birth to the present hour. I am ready for the trial.

"I do not propose now to give in detail the facts which have come to my knowledge, or the incidents, disclosures and confidential communications which have from time to time been made or which were communicated to me in regard to the character of Henry Ward Beecher; to his dishonorable conduct in business affairs; to his treacherous treatment of friends; to his violations of written contracts; to his untruthful statements in court; to his dodging all thorough investigations into his conduct and character; to his social indifference when unjust charges and malicious slanders have been made against particular members of his church; to his recent contradictory statements in regard to the character of Plymouth Church, which he has [illegible] as a 'hodge podge council, composed of wolves and foxes' (like Drs. Storrs and Budington), which council at one time he said he had never positively objected to, but in regard to which he did on another occasion say 'I won't, I won't have anything to do with it;' and, finally, to his coarse abuse and slanderous charges of perjury uttered boldly and publicly, in his own lecture room, against an honest, Christian man, who was not present nor alleged, to speak the truth concerning him. With this brief reference to matters which have had an influence in forming my judgment, I will proceed to tell you, plainly what are my conclusions in regard to the character of the pastor of Plymouth Church.

"I have known Mr. Beecher quite intimately since the day of his arrival in Brooklyn. I have been acquainted with his social and private life, in church and in family, in business matters and in religious matters. I have heard attentively, but with profound grief, what has been said to me confidentially and openly. I have felt my heart stirred to its depths for dear friends who, years before the present scandal was published, sorrowfully begged my counsel and advice, as they looked to the pastor and mine had craftily betrayed the sanctity of home—the very charge long after presented to me by Theodore Tilton in regard to his own wife. I never can or will be base enough to allow a single name to be brutied before the world, although I am now ready to testify to the essential facts in the case of Theodore Tilton.

"These disclosures I heard with a sad heart and tried to accept the evidence brought to me that Mr. Beecher was a guilty sinner and penitent. I have read much that has been said for and against Mr. Beecher in the public press; I have watched with the deepest interest his acts and pondered over his published letters and written confessions in regard to the serious accusations made against him; I have tried to weigh all the evidence that has come before me with judicial fairness and Christian honesty; I have read the withering charges which have been published in the world against him; I have seen those charges again and again hurled at him and he calmly and boldly challenged to appear before any impartial tribunal to meet the accusers and to try with this cloud of darkness gathering about him, apparently defying public opinion, defying the advice of his old life-long friends (many of whom would have been and been clergymen in the country) and seemingly defying again and again the very God of Heaven to unravel the mystery.

"Now, being summoned here to speak, and to speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, I solemnly give it as my unswerving opinion, in view of all the facts and evidence presented to me, that Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, without even the shadow of doubt in my mind, is guilty of the two crimes of adultery and perjury and hypocrisy. This I say again, and before the bar of this committee, is my deliberate opinion, and I may be permitted to affirm that I give it without fear, favor, malice and with no other than a sincere desire to do my duty faithfully to God and to man, to the Church and to the world.

[Signed] "HENRY C. BOWEN."

BROOKLYN, February 4, 1876.

NOW PROVE IT!

The Examining Committee of Plymouth Church has framed a letter to Mr. Bowen, in which he is summoned to appear before the Committee Tuesday evening next and give proof of the assertions contained in his reply to the grievances of Mr. White.

Killed by a Mouse.

It is generally imagined that a man who is afraid of a mouse entertains a groundless apprehension; but one other day a mouse, which was in the London Hospital, was a patient, but in spirits of wine, did actually kill its man. The man was trying to catch it, and it ran up his sleeve and on to his neck, and then the poor fellow opened into the poor fellow's open mouth and down his throat. Curiously enough, it was not suffocated. The mouse, it seems, can endure being without air longer than any other animal, and finding itself, as it were, in prison, tried to gnaw its way through the wretched man's chest and throat, who presently expired in great agony. This is perhaps the strangest death that has ever befallen a human being.—*London Letter.*

XLIV. CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 8, 1876.

SENATE.

The CHAIR laid before the Senate a number of House bills which were referred. Among them was a bill making an appropriation to pay fourteen crippled and disabled Union soldiers, from the 6th of December, 1872, to the 30th of June, 1876.

Mr. EDMUNDS inquired what these soldiers had done.

Mr. SARGENT said the bill should be referred to the Committee on Appropriations, as there were some circumstances in regard to the bill which he desired to examine.

Mr. EDMUNDS said he did not know but these soldiers were those whose services had been dispensed with. The bill was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. SHERMAN, from the Committee on Finance, reported adversely on the Senate bill to secure depositors in the Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company their ultimate loss. Laid on the table.

Mr. MCDONALD, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported favorably on the Senate bill for the relief of John A. Torrence. Passed.

Mr. KERNAN, from the Committee on Finance, reported favorably on the Senate bill for the relief of the Louisville Baptist Orphans' Home. Passed.

The Senate took up the time for holding the Circuit Court of the United States in California, Oregon and Nevada, with amendments of the House thereto.

Mr. FERRY, President *pro tem.*, said while he was never ready to oppose the wishes of labor, he found his services on three committees conflicted with the requirements of the present session, and he was not able to meet the requirements of the service on the Committee on Finance. He therefore asked to be relieved from service.

After the expiration of the morning hour, Mr. WALLACH moved that the Senate proceed to the consideration of executive business.

Mr. MORRILL said yesterday he gave notice that he would call up the Centennial bill at one o'clock to-day. He now desired to say that whatever was the pleasure of the Senate on this subject should be expressed at the present time. The financial condition of the country was such that the Senate should say what it proposed to do. If they proposed to turn their backs on it they should do so, and notice that he would urge the consideration of the bill at the earliest moment.

Mr. EDMUNDS did not think the Centennial bill should be considered until information, called from the Secretary of State, was received. He, however, would not oppose the present consideration of the bill.

The Senate, by a vote of yeas 24 and nays 33, refused to go into executive session and on motion of Mr. MORRILL took up the House bill, appropriating $1,500,000.

Mr. MORRILL then yielded the floor to Mr. DAVIS, who offered resolutions of respect to the memory of his late colleague, O. S. Ferry, the understanding being that the Centennial bill should come up immediately after to-morrow.

Mr. Cooper was appointed a member of the Senate Committee on Finance, in place of Mr. Ferry, excused from further service.

Mr. CLAYTON called up the unfinished business from the morning hour of yesterday, being the Senate bill to repeal section 2,301 of Revised Statutes, making restrictions in the disposition of public lands in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Florida. Pending question was on the amendment of Mr. Edmunds, that public land selected by this bill shall not be opened to private entry until the same shall be offered at public sale after the passage of this act. The bill was discussed till the expiration of the morning hour and then laid over.

Mr. MORTON submitted a resolution that the Committee on the District of Columbia be instructed to consider the expediency of declaring and reporting a bill to provide a government for the District of Columbia, under which the people, through the elective franchise, may regulate and control their domestic affairs, and investing in the Congress the regulation and control by the United States of such matters in the District which it may be necessary in the jurisdiction as may be necessary in the National Capital. Agreed to.

Mr. BOREMAN submitted the following, and gave notice that at the proper time he would submit it as an additional section to the Land Grant bill, to be considered on the morning hour: "Section 2—That before any of the timber lands granted by this act shall be offered for sale they shall be appraised, under such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior, and no patent shall be made at less than the minimum fixed by such appraisement, but such lands may be sold at less than $1.25 per acre." Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MORTON offered his resolutions of respect for the memory of the late Senator Ferry.

Messrs. Eaton, Sargent, Bayard, Howe, Frelinghuysen, Thurman, Wadleigh and English, said as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

The SPEAKER called the committees for reports of a public nature.

Mr. LAWRENCE, from the Judiciary Committee, reported back the Senate bill for action in cases of death resulting from wrongful acts of neglect or default in the District of Columbia, and recommended that the amount to be recovered should not be above $5,000.

Mr. O'NEILL, of Pennsylvania, moved to amend by striking out $5,000 and substituting $10,000. Agreed to.

Mr. LAWRENCE moved to amend by inserting a section providing that no personal action or right of action shall terminate or abate by the death of the plaintiff, but that such right of action be authorized by this act or otherwise. Agreed to. The bill, as amended, then passed.

Mr. LYNDE, from the same committee, reported back the Senate bill to confer upon the jurisdiction of circuit courts in suits against corporations. Laid on the table.

A bill to amend the law relative to bankruptcy, commenced in the supreme courts of the several Territories prior to the 2d of June, 1876, and now pending therein.

Also, the bill to repeal the Bankruptcy act. The first section repeals the Bankrupt act of 2d of March, 1867, and all acts and parts of acts amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto. The second section provides that suits and proceedings now pending in the United States courts wherein an adjudication in bankruptcy has been made, shall be prosecuted, and be governed by the provisions of the Bankrupt act, which shall remain in force only for the purpose of closing up suits and proceedings now pending. The act is to take effect until the 1st day of June, 1877. The Bankruptcy bill, after some discussion of technical points, was passed—yeas, 104; nays, 80.

The following is the vote in detail:

YEAS.		
Adams,	Franklin,	Parsons,
Ainsworth,	Frost,	Phillips, Mo.,
Atkins,	Fuller,	Phillips, Pa.,
Ashe,	Glover,	Phillips, Ks.,
Atkins,	Goodin,	Pike,
Begby,	Hamilton, Ind.	Poppleton,
Bagley, Jr.,	Hamilton, Md.	Potter,
Bagley, J. H.,	Haralson,	Powell,
Baker, Ind.,	Hardenbergh,	Ralston,
Baker, Ill.,	Harris, Va.,	Rea,
Banning,	Harr son,	Reagan,
Bell,	Hartzell,	Reilly, John
Bebe,	Hartzell,	Reilly, Jas. H.,
Beck,	Hatcher,	Rice,
Blackburn,	Haymond,	Riddle,
Bland,	Hendee,	Robinson,
Boone,	Henderson,	Rogers,
Bradford,	Hereford,	Savage,
Bradley,	Hereford,	Scales,
Bright,	Hewitt, Ala.,	Schleicher,
Brown, Ky.,	Hoar,	Schumaker,
Brown, Ks.,	Holman,	Seelye,
Buffington,	Hooker,	Shanklin,
Burchard, Ill.,	Houghton,	Shelley,
Burchard, Ia.,	House,	Simonton,
Burleigh,	Hunton,	Smalls,
Caldwell, Ala.,	Hurlbut,	Smith, Pa.,
Caldwell, Tenn.,	Ingersoll,	Southard,
Campbell,	Jones, Ky.,

States Circuit Court to-day for a new trial, on the following grounds:

First—Because the Court admitted illegal and incompetent evidence offered by the prosecution.

Second—Because the Court gave the jury erroneous instructions and erred in its charge to the jury.

Third—Because the verdict is against the law.

Fourth—Because the verdict is against the law and the evidence.

MCKEE'S COMPROMISE BREAKS DOWN.

William McKee's motion for a new trial surprises everybody, as it was thought he had succeeded in effecting a compromise, by which he was to pay $10,000 and enjoy immunity from further trouble. The real cause of the motion for a new trial is the fact that Judge Dillon, who has been considering the proposition for such a compromise for the last three days, this morning at an early hour notified counsel for the Government and the defense that it was not within the province of the Court to sanction such a settlement of the case. There is little hope for a new trial, and McKee's friends fear that a new trial will only make matters worse for the good deacon. The Government undoubtedly has each and every one of the revenue robbers hip and thigh.

BABCOCK APPEARS AND PLEADS NOT GUILTY—TRIAL TO BEGIN TO-DAY.

ST. LOUIS, February 7.—General O. E. Babcock appeared in the United States Court this morning, to answer to the indictment charging him with complicity in the whisky frauds. He was attended by Judge John K. Porter, of New York; Emory J. Storrs, ex-Attorney and ex-Attorney General Williams, Judge John M. and Chester H. Krum, of St. Louis, as counsel. His father-in-law, United States Marshal Campbell, for the Northern district of Illinois, and his brother, C. W. Babcock, of Kansas, sat in the court room near him. District Attorney D. P. Dyer and special counsel James O. Broadhead and Mayor Lucien Eaton, appeared for the Government. It was General Babcock's first appearance in the court since his indictment, and the formality of pleading not guilty was gone through with. The jurors remaining on the old panel and those specially summoned for this case were called over, but only half of them responded, they having been selected from outside of St. Louis county and some of them not having had time to arrive. Mr. Storrs stated that the counsel for the defense very much needed another day for consultation, and also to await the arrival of very important documentary evidence. The counsel for the Government made no objection to the delay, and after a brief consultation Judge Dillon announced that the case would go over until to-morrow morning, and that at two o'clock the jurors would be called again, that it might be seen who were present. The pressure on the court room was relieved by a strong force of police. Beyond the panel of jurors, the witnesses and the members of the press, very few were admitted even to the second floor of the Government building. A crowd of several hundred, however, collected on the outside. Nothing was done in the afternoon session of the court, except to call the jurors. Twenty-seven responded and two or three others will probably be present to-morrow.

BABCOCK'S TRIAL BEGUN—JURY SWORN—OPENING SPEECH OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

ST. LOUIS, February 8.—The United States Circuit Court opened promptly at ten o'clock this morning, and without any delay the selection of a jury in the Babcock case was proceeded with. The jurors were examined very briefly by the prosecution. The defense made no examination whatever of most of the jurors, but three or four were put through a rigid inquiry. James Milton, of Marion county, was excused for cause, he admitting that the finding of an indictment against a party left a bad impression upon his mind, which would probably require proof to remove. Both sides exhausted all their peremptory challenges, three each, and the jury was finally sworn in at 11:45, composed of the following:

R. N. Blackwood, Lewis county.
Matt. Wodruff, Clarke county.
W. E. Wilson, Lewis county.
Dora Johnson, Lewis county.
B. F. Snyder, Knox county.
J. M. Keathley, St. Charles county.
Edward B. F. May, Franklin county.
Wm. Blakeley, Adair county.
D. W. Tainter, Gasconade county.
Wm. S. Jewett, Jefferson county.
W. T. Jackson, Marion county.
Harvey Lansom, Lewis county.

The District Attorney then announced that no more whisky cases would come before the court at this special term, and all the jurors outside of this trial panel were discharged.

The District Attorney then addressed the jury, opening the case for the prosecution.

He repeated the history of the conspiracy which was organized here in 1871, stating that it involved the distillers, Treasury officers and Government officers and employees here, and had its ramifications even in Washington. He cited several dispatches alleged to have passed between Joyce, McDonald, Avery and Babcock, to show that the two latter persons were engaged in the conspiracy and corresponded with the conspirators in the distillery, between Joyce and Babcock, touching the appointment of Col. Constantine Maguire as collector of Internal Revenue, after the death of Charles W. Ford, were cited, and Colonel Dyer stated that it would be proved that from that time on the defendant furnished information to the ring here. The department was thwarted in all its efforts to get an investigation that would reveal the frauds, for the reason that the private agents sent here to examine affairs, were either bought up on their arrival, or advices had been received here of their contemplated visits and their coming was thus given the distillers to straighten up and show regular work. Mr. Dyer claimed that it would be clearly shown that Babcock not only had full knowledge of the existence of the frauds which were carried on, but that he aided the conspirators in their work and received money directly from Joyce, who mailed it to him. Babcock and Avery were the two men at Washington who kept the ring posted. Even after the indictment of General John McDonald, Babcock, it would be proved, was in secret correspondence with him. The evidence would in a measure establish that, and that there would not be a link missing in the chain.

Joseph M. Fitzroy was then put on the witness stand for the prosecution. After testifying to his position in the revenue service, &c., he was asked by District Attorney Dyer, who conducted the examination, to state what he knew about C. Megrue, his operations here in 1871, &c.

Judge Krum objected, on the ground of hearsay, and because the indictment charged that the defendant with others did defraud the Government of seventy cents tax on certain proof spirits, whereas, in 1871, there was a tax of only fifty cents on proof spirits.

The Court held the point under advisement and allowed the witness to proceed but he was shortly withdrawn, and Mr. Thompson called to the stand. He gave the history of his connection with the ring, explained how he made crooked whisky, &c., &c., all of which has been stated under the indictment, and that the defendant is not connected with the conspiracy in 1871 and 1872, then we can act on the testimony already presented and rule it out."

The court then adjourned.

Hon. E. C. Bressly, of Washington, one of General Babcock's counsel, has been so indisposed since his arrival here, that he has not appeared in the case, and left for home to-night.

BABCOCK'S TRIAL CONTINUED AT ST. LOUIS—PRESIDENT GRANT'S DEPOSITION TO BE TAKEN BEFORE CHIEF JUSTICE WAITE.

ST. LOUIS, February 9.—Acting under the advice of the Court given just before adjournment last night, the Government counsel in the Babcock trial to-day passed over the conspiracy in 1871 and 1872, and produced testimony to show the existence of operations of the whisky ring from 1873 to 1874. No direct evidence was brought out against General Babcock, the testimony being general in character and tending to show who were in the conspiracy and the extent of it.

Joseph M. Fitzroy was put on the stand at 9:30 this morning of the morning session and kept there an hour and a half. Fitzroy was Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue, and after the departure of Con. Megrue, in November, 1872, became the active business man of the ring. The examination proceeded with only occasional technical objections from counsel for the defense, and very little of the testimony was ruled out. Fitzroy was asked if he knew the defendant, and said I met General Babcock once last September; it was at the Lindell Hotel in this city; Wm. O. Avery introduced me to him; the President was at the hotel; it was on the occasion of a visit to this city by the President and Gen. Babcock had on my left General Babcock before that time; I was then under indictment for complicity in these frauds.

On cross-examination, Fitzroy said of this meeting with Babcock: It was simply an introduction; there was no conversation; I was standing near the elevator when Gen. Babcock came up, and Mr. Avery introduced us.

After Mr. Fitzroy, John F. Siedentopf, the foreman at Ulrich's distillery, was put on the stand. His testimony related wholly to the operations of the distillery of which he was foreman and manager, the manner in which crooked whisky was made and disposed of, the amounts of money paid to revenue officers, &c.

Rudolph W. Ulrich then took the stand. He said his foreman, Siedentopf, had given a good account of their operations, and added some testimony about raising money to buy off revenue agents who came here and found irregularities. Witness was living in either Ulrich's or Siedentopf's residence that has not been published several times, and it was repeated mainly to show the existence of a conspiracy. This can also be said of Fitzroy's testimony.

Just previous to the adjournment of the morning session, Mr. Storrs stated that the defense had intended to have the personal attendance of President Grant as a witness, but as the case now stands he thought this would not be necessary, particularly as there is a telegram before us in which he says his attendance at Washington. He then proceed to the counsel for the prosecution that they should meet with the counsel for the defense and agree on questions and cross-questions to be put to the President, and that the examination should be made before the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Colonel Dyer said he had no particular objection to such an arrangement, if it should appear after examining the interrogatories of the defense, that the Government could be as well served in this way as by the personal presence of the President.

Mr. Storrs stated that they had their questions written out, and asked the Court to prolong the noon session till 3 P. M., to give the counsel for the Government time to prepare their cross-examinations. This the Court agreed to, and adjourned to 3 P. M.

On the reassembling of the Court, District Attorney Dyer stated that the counsel for the Government had met the counsel for the defense regarding the questions to be sent to Washington; that they had not time to prepare their counter interrogatories. He therefore asked the Court to adjourn until to-morrow morning, to afford both sides an opportunity to properly arrange their questions and cross-questions, and that counsel may leave to-night for Washington. He said there in time to have the deposition taken Saturday. Judge Porter joined in this request for an adjournment.

Judge Dillon stated that the Court recognized the force of the suggestion of counsel as to the expediency of the President's absenting himself from Washington at this time, and as the public convenience would probably save time the court was ordered adjourned till to-morrow morning.

THE GOOD WORK AT NEW ORLEANS.

NEW ORLEANS, February 8.—Colonel W. J. Behan and John Thorn, of the firm of Behan, Thorn & Co., cotton factors and forwarders here have been indicted by the Grand Jury, charged with receiving packages of distilled spirits, as wholesale liquor dealers, and knowingly, unlawfully and fraudulently neglecting or omitting to make proper entries in the books which the law requires them to keep. Others were in counts against Henderson; bail $10,000. Eight counts against Behan and Thorn; bail $15,000 each. District Attorney J. R. Beckwith, assistant District Attorney, General Brady, Supervisor; Mr. Wheeler, Revenue Agent, and others are busily engaged weaving a web around the "crooked."

THE IRON INTEREST.

Iron Making in Perry County, Ohio.

NEWARK, O., February 7, 1876.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

Some weeks since you commented unfavorably on the statement of a correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette as to the cost of making iron in Perry county, Ohio. As your journal probably reaches as many persons directly interested in iron manufacture as any in America, I submit the following statements on this subject by Prof. E. B. Andrews, of the Geological Corps, to whom the people of Ohio are largely indebted for the completeness and interest of their State geological report:

As a matter of economic interest, he might have added that the fire brick for the furnaces referred to are made on the premises, and that flint and fire clay for this purpose are found throughout this region in abundance and of excellent quality. Pig iron from this locality ought to be delivered in your city at $8 50 per ton freight.

R.

Following is the extract spoken of above;

Through the courtesy of Mr. S. Baird, of the Iron Hill Works, Murray Creek Township, Perry county, Ohio, I am able to send you some results in ironmaking which illustrate the value of a good locality for a blast furnace. The coal (dry-burning bituminous), iron ore and limestone are all found in the same hills and close by the furnace. The mouth of the coal bank is scarcely more than stone's throw away, and about thirty feet above the level of the top of the stack. Mr. Baird uses seven and half feet of the seam without coking or mixture with coke. The chief layer of ore (limonite) is about thirty feet below the seam of coal. Some 1,500 tons were taken up in preparing the approach to the furnace, which is located upon a hillside. By such a location it necessarily follows that the costly and expensive hoisting of materials is obviated, the natural position of the coal and ore being above. The ore is found in all the adjacent hills and farms, and thus far Mr. Baird has bought his ore delivered at the furnace, although excellent ore lands belong to the company. The limestone is found in layers lower in the same hills which furnish the coal for coking. A stream flowing a few feet below the casting house affords the needed water; a dam and reservoir provide for the contingency of summer drouth. The furnace is two and a half miles from the Straitsville branch of the Columbus and Hocking Valley Railroad, and a little more than the same distance from the Corning branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Ohio division. It is in contemplation to build a little branch from the furnace to the Straitsville road. Therefore, as there in time to have the deposition taken Saturday. Judge Porter joined in this request for an adjournment.

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CONSULAR SINFULNESS.

A Suppressed Report Found After Many Years—Abuses in American Consulates.

(Special Correspondence of Chicago Times.)

WASHINGTON, February 6.—After considerable effort and patient investigation, the report of De B. Randolpph Keim, a special agent of the United States for the examination of consular affairs during the years 1870, '71 and '72, has been found. This report, although printed in pamphlet form, has been practically suppressed. Its damaging relations constitute such a withering expose of the consular system of the United States as to make it to the interest of the Administration to keep its contents from the public. Mr. Keim was appointed by Secretary Boutwell under a special act of Congress, and broke his fly-wheel, and which was regarded as a job at the time, but he seems to have taken his appointment in earnest, and endeavored, by a careful examination of nearly all consulates of the United States, to have earned the great expense that the Government was at in sending him upon his flying mission. He began his travels in July, 1870, and conclued his labors in December, 1872. During this time he traveled 63,000 miles and visited

ALL PARTS OF THE CIVILIZED WORLD.

His reports came in with promptness, but they were evidently not appreciated by the Administration. Careful examination of his reports would give a clear insight into motives for its suppression. An epitome of his conclusions is stated in the following extracts from his reports: "I might expand my observations upon the irregularities, responsibilities and unaccountabilities of the present consular system in definite language. There is hardly a feature in it that does not indicate imbecility in point of executive ability, humiliation in point of character, and mingled extravagance and penuriousness in point of practice. I do not consider myself in the least degree overstepping the bounds of decorum or of justice when I say this." He further says: "The officers, as a rule, at the time of my visit had been obliged to open their books anew or had had it done by a subordinate. Almost every consulate had some defects in its history, owing to the incompetency,

LOW SALARIES AND DISHONESTY

in some of its officers. During the endless round of changes incident to official rotation, abuses had been committed in the collection of fees, in the exercise of judicial powers, in the adjustment of business affairs of American citizens, in the settlement of estates of intestate American citizens, in selling American flags, in running out ships, in the discharge of seamen, in not affording relief to destitute American seamen, in issuing legal papers to unaccountable shipmasters, and in taxing Chinese emigrants. Indeed, a fair epitome of the features of my investigations was the ingeniority displayed by the consular officers since the act of 1856, particularly, in defrauding the Government, and grasping gratuities from various outside sources. Besides, my report of May 22, 1872, is filled with instances which prove the truth of these remarks." He commends at great length upon the frightful abuses practiced by consular officers in granting relief to destitute American seamen in foreign ports. The numerous instances of petition, persecution and fraud in the use of this fund are enough to disgrace the civil service of any government in the world. He says that the natives are frequently hired at low rates to accept relief and sign vouchers and that this practice is carried on in

A MOST UNABASHED MANNER.

Large sums have been charged and vouchers, explanations and affidavits have been heaped upon the department in this room when the officers must have known that they were questionable. He animadverts with great severity upon the loose manner of keeping accounts in the department at Washington as well as by the Consuls themselves. Such a system, he says, must strike every one who contemplates it for a moment as a burlesque upon official accountability. Whatever reforms may be, aid to our commerce with other powers, he says, has been a burden to shipping by various personal imbecilities, and it has disgraced us in the estimation of view beyond estimate. A majority of the persons filling consular offices are unable or unwilling to appreciate the importance of their position and the duties and obligations in which they reside. As soon as they get beyond the restraint of public opinion at home, they also lose all mora' obligations, and act in a manner both humiliating and disgraceful. It frequently happens that officers have wholly ignored the commercial interests of their trust, and forgotten that as Americans they are taken as representatives of their countrymen. To cap the climax of all, he says he is not aware of a single investigation and the punishment of a consular officer for an offense, and even removals from offices, where made, have been as a rule extremely tardy, and it is not surprised at the temerity of officers in the unfaithful performance of their trusts. He

SUMMARIZES THE ABUSES

under the following heads: First, neglect, either from incompetency or willfully; second, in charging unauthorized consular fees; third, in the relief of destitute seamen and in the receipt of extra wages; fourth, in the exercise of judicial powers by consular officers; fifth, respecting invoices; sixth, use of the consulate for personal gain or advancement. In reference to the unofficial fees which are charged by consular officers in the British isles, he mentions those collected on bills, notarial oaths by the commissioners, the consul not being authorized to administer them by the laws of England. These unofficial fees are not accounted for to the Government of the United States, but go into the pocket of the consul as perquisites of his office. The estimated that during the year ending on June 30d, 1872, these unofficial fees in the British isles amounted to $50,654 29. At the Liverpool consulate, where the salary is $7,500, the commissioner's fees were $6,039 05, at Manchester, where the salary was $3,000, the unofficial fees were $9,573 84, while

THE PRESIDENT'S BIOGRAPHER,

Mr. Adam Badeau, at London, enjoying the respectable salary of $7,500, also was enabled to pocket unofficial fees to the amount of $11,907. This makes the fees of the Consul General at London more lucrative than the salary of the Minister plenipotentiary to England.

A Book for Pittsburghers.

THE WILDERNESS; OR, BRADDOCK'S TIMES. By Dr. James McHenry, author of "The Spectre of the Forest," "The Insurgent Chief," etc. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co.

This historical story of early times in Western Pennsylvania, first published in New York in 1823, was reprinted in Pittsburgh in 1848, and is now reproduced by a home house in style similar to its second edition in 1848, when printed here by John H. Kennedy, now editor of the Allegheny Mail. Many of our readers citizens read the book with much interest, but to the later generations it is unknown. It is a very appropriate work to revive in this Centennial year, and should find a place in every household in Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio and West Virginia. Although a work of fiction, it treats of historical personages, and many of the scenes are laid in our immediate vicinity. A full account is given of Braddock's expedition and defeat, as well as much other matter of local historical interest.

But a limited number of copies has been issued, and those of the first edition in book should go or send at once to Weldin & Co. It is handsomely bound in muslin, and sells for $1 50 per copy.

Business at the Sheriff's Office.

Following is a statement of writs served and executed by John H. Hare during his three years' term as Sheriff of Allegheny county, and a comparison of the business of his term with that of Sheriff Fleming, his predecessor:

Summons, etc., served from Common Pleas No. 1	17,116
Summons, etc., served from Common Pleas No. 2	12,494
Total	29,610
Executions from Common Pleas No. 1	7,307
Executions from Common Pleas No. 2	5,168
Executions from other counties, etc.	970
Total	13,445
Interest and discounts	50
Total	$13 00

The profits of the store pay salaries.

Three dollars amply pay the expense of delivering the iron in Columbus where much of it is used. The average daily production of the furnace is sixty tons. The furnace is stopped on Sundays. The quality is one-third No. 1 foundry, one-half gray mill and one-sixth No. 2 mill and silvery pig. The dimensions of the furnace are as follows: 44 feet high, 11 feet 8 inches width of bosh; near 5 feet in depth, 5 feet 9 inches in width at top, 7 feet at bottom. Four 3-inch tuyeres, 3 feet 2 inches above bottom of hearth. Pressure of blast, 3½ pounds; temperature, 700 degrees, heated in 27 double dat U pipes, with inside dimensions 12x5 inches. Steam cylinder 32 inches diameter with 4 feet stroke. Blowing cylinder 5 feet diameter with 4 feet stroke. The furnace has been in blast two months or more. I know Mr. Baird well, and do not hesitate to indorse all his statements as entirely trustworthy. By using ores from his extensive lands, instead of buying them, their cost would be somewhat reduced. Mr. Baird has already secured lands for two additional furnace stacks. These lands, I believe, can be found along the line of the out-crop of the coals and ores of Perry and Athens counties. While prosecuting the work of the Ohio Geological Survey for the State of Ohio I subjected myself to no little reproach from furnacemen of other localities by asserting the relative cheapness of the manufacture of iron in the district now entered by Mr. Baird as the successful pioneer. There are so few instances now making iron with a margin for reasonable profit that I have ventured to call attention to this new field in Ohio. It is worthy of much more consideration than has yet been given it. There is an unlimited supply of very superior dry-burning coal in a seam ranging from six to thirteen feet in thickness. This coal is now sent by rail to the various ports on Lake Erie.

Should the ores of Lake Superior be desired for mixture with the native ores of the coal measures, they could be brought from those ports as a return freight in the coal cars at a reduction of the usual cost.

During the last six months the number of gallons of spirits produced in the United States was 26,100,392, against 28,290,212 for the corresponding period the year before, a falling of off 2,159,820 gallons.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, February 9, 1876.

The money market presents no new features of interest. Dullness rules and everything seems to be waiting for an improvement in business. Money is plenty and with a scarcity of paper rates are low. The easy condition of the money market is most favorable to the project of funding our public debt at a lower rate of interest. A year ago our process of liquidating the public debt had been almost arrested. During the seven months ending with February last, 1875, the debt was reduced $908,000, while the reduction for a corresponding time this year amounts to about $10,000,000.

—So active has been the demand for the new 5's that the project has been seriously discussed of organizing a new syndicate to offer to take five hundred millions of these bonds at 105 in gold. The project does not, however, agree with that of the Secretary of the Treasury, which we gave in our last issue. While there is an undoubted advantage in the plan of Mr. Bristow, yet it is well to consider the objections before placing so large a loan, which will be out of control of the Government for thirty years. Discussing this question, the New York *Express* says that every shrewd financier understands the importance of funding the national debt and saving thereby to the Government the difference in interest; but it is to be feared that those members of the committee who apparently sanction the increase in the amount of 4½ per cent. bonds have not gone into a close calculation of the matter. If the Government issued $300,000,000 4½ per cent. bonds and $200,000,000 4 per cent. bonds, instead of the proposed amount of $500,000,000 4½ per cent. bonds, it would save in interest ½ per cent. on $200,000,000 for thirty years, which at simple interest amounts to $30,000,000; but the interest on interest compounded yearly at 4½ per cent. for twenty-nine years would amount to an additional saving of $20,432,-000, thus making the total saving or the thirty years of $50,432,930. The interest on these bonds is payable quarterly and the interest might justly be compounded that way; but we have only calculated it yearly and we have the astonishing figures presented above—sum nearly equal to the entire annual expenditure of the National Government in the antebellum days. Now, let us view his matter in another light. If the Government issued $500,000,000 4 per cent bonds instead of the same amount of 4½ per cent. bonds, it would save in interest on the bonds ½ per cent. for thirty years, equal in round figures to $75,000,000. This calculation is based upon simple interest; but the interest on interest compounded yearly at 4½ per cent. for twenty-nine years would make an additional amount of $51,082,325, which, added to he saving at simple interest, would bring he total up to the very large figure of $126,082,325. The first objection to be urged against a 4 per cent. bond is that it could not be floated neither here nor in Europe at the present time, and for that matter the same objection will hold good against the 4½ per cent. bonds. The future may see a approaching when the latter can be marketed, and, with the proper legislation, we should not have to wait much longer for an opportunity to place the 4 per cent. bonds. What investors, both in this country and Europe, want, is a long bond, and a security of this kind is particularly wanted in Europe since the collapse in Spanish, Turkish and South American securities. If Congress should authorize $500,000,094 four per cent. bonds and make them a positive fifty year bond, it would not be long before they would be wanted, especially in Europe, for trust estates, and occupy a position similar to that of British consols. Such a financial policy would have a tendency to greatly improve the national credit and cause an advance in the 6 and 5 per cent. bonds of the Government to a point that would make the 4 per cent. bonds attractive to that class of investors who wanta security that is not only safe but has a long time to run. To increase the 4½ per cents to $500,000,000 would be a step in the right direction, but the best policy would be the *ecletic* of the present Administration in funding the debt, but we take it that the enormous amount that would in time be saved by a 4 per cent. bond is of paramount importance.

OFFICE OF TRASK & STONE, BANKERS AND BROKERS, 20 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK, February 8, 1876.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

There has been some spasmodic activity in the stock exchange this week, but prices are generally been well sustained. In some cases the rise has been established, but as a rule the closing quotations are lower than at the opening.

It is abundantly evident that the main object of the principal clique in our market is to get control of the stock and bond exchanges and the prices; hence the recent manipulations of Lake Shore and Western Union.

The same game is being carried out uncommon with the manipulators, and there has been the most great desire to tempt outside parties to buy their stocks, and it is not surprising that successful. Ohio and Mississippi was sustained at 25½@25¾ on the day's advance, but was not advancing, but as soon as outside operators appeared in the market to buy it, it was freely offered for sale, and fell to 25 @25¼.

We still think that for the time being it will pay well sticking to everything good.

Money is easy at 5 per cent. on call.

Yours truly,
TRASK & STONE.

—The report of the Railroad Commissioners of Wisconsin, covering the operations of the railroads in the State for the year 1875, says that but twenty miles have been added during the year. The gross earnings are $5,000 less than for 1874, and the net earnings are $1,000 less, estimating the Milwaukee, Lake Shore and Western Railroad the same as last year, amounts to $23,387,400, of which the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul lead in earnings, $4,994,000, and the Chicago and Northwestern $12,597,094. The total earnings of the Wisconsin lines amounted to $4,946,667. This is a decrease, as compared with the earnings of 1874, of $2,282,132 on the total lines operated, and of $858,314 on the 1,500 miles of road which were in use both years. The $23,387,400 gross earnings for 1874-5, $15,771,268 was from freight, $5,025,281 from passengers, and $2,590,850 from other sources. The total net earnings of the total lines reported for the year ending June 30, 1875, were $8,726,200, or $1,656 per mile. The total net earnings to be credited to Wisconsin, as nearly as can be determined, are $6,226, or $876 per mile of Wisconsin road. But two companies, the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul and the Chicago and Northwestern, paid dividends for the year, the dividends for some years past, and neither of these paid any dividend last year.

—Charles Francis Adams, Jr., has made a series of investigations and compiled statistics showing that only one railroad passenger in 7,000,000 is killed, and only one to 1,500,000 is even so much as bruised. In the year 1874 only one person was killed on all the Massachusetts railroads, while seventy-six were killed by accidents in the city of Boston.

The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day, furnished by the Fifth National Bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

	10:30 A. M.	11:30 A. M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.
February 9, 1876.				
Gold	112⅝	112⅝	112⅝	112⅝
U. S. 6's—1881, coup.	122⅝	122⅝		122⅝
5-20's, 1865	117⅞	117⅞		117⅞
5-20's, 1865, new	119⅛	119⅛		119⅛
5-20's, 1867, registered	121⅛	121⅛		121⅛
5-20's, 1867, coupon	121⅛	121⅛		121⅛
5-20's, 1868	122⅞	122⅞		122⅞
10-40's	116⅛	116⅛		116⅛
10-40's, coupon	116⅛	116⅛		116⅛
Currency 6's	127½	127½		127½
Pacific Mail	77¼	77¼		77¼
Western Union Tel.	97⅞	97⅞		97⅞
Quicksilver	35¼	35¼		35¼
Panama	99½	99½		99½
Adams Express	109	109		109
Wells-Fargo Express	87½	87½		87½
American Express	63	63		63
United States Express	69¼	69¼		69¼
Canton	68	68		68
Erie	16⅜	17	16⅛	16⅝
Michigan Central	97½	97½	97½	97½
Michigan Southern	65⅞	66	65⅞	66
Illinois Central	97		97	97
Cleveland & Pitts.	95		95¼	
Chicago & Rock Island	117¾	118	117¾	118
Do. preferred	123½			
Fort Wayne	101		101¼	101¼
Ohio and Mississippi	25	25¼	25¼	25¼
Union Pacific	68		68	68
Harlem	137¾		137¾	137
Hannibal and St. Jos.	20¼	20¼	20¼	20¼
Atlantic & Pac. pref.			20⅜	20⅜
Ft. Wayne guar.			99	99
C., C. & I. C.	5			

—The following is the report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

Stocks.	Bid.	Asked.	Sales.
Pennsylvania Central	54⅞	55	
Reading		51¾	
United Co.'s of N. J.	140		
Oil Creek			145
Lehigh Valley			63
Allegheny Valley	98		
Central Transport'n			47
P., C. & St. L., 1st pf.			102
Northern Pacific bonds	109¾		110

(By Associated Press.)

Gold Closed at 112⅝.

MONEY.

NEW YORK, February 9.—Money closed at 4 @5 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 6@6½ per cent. Customs receipts $422,000. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $519,000. Clearings $22,000,000. Sterling dull at 485¾@489¾.

GOLD.

Gold dull at 112⅝@112⅝. Carrying rates 2 to 4 per cent.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Government Bonds steady. Railroad bonds firm. State securities quiet. The stock market opened weak at a decline of from ⅛ to ¼ per cent. as compared with the closing quotations of yesterday, but afterward a firmer feeling set in and the stock was recovered, another meridian the market as a general thing became weak again and prices declined from ¼ to ⅜ per cent. Lake Shore leading the decline, Northwestern and St. Paul shares were exceptionally firm. The advance in St. Paul preferred was due chiefly to reports that the directors will probably declare a dividend of 14 per cent. to-morrow. The transactions at the stock exchange for two years past. Other changes were slight, except in express stocks. American advanced from 61 to 63¾. Adams selling up to 109¾. United States reacted from 69¾ to 68¾. During the last hour stocks were a little firmer with a recovery of from ⅛ to ⅜ per cent. from the lowest point of the day. The market generally was quiet and without special feature. Transactions aggregate 144,000 shares, of which 8,000 were Pacific Mail, 29,000 Western Union, 11,000 Northwestern, 21,000 St. Paul, 50,000 Lake Shore and 12,000 Ohio and Mississippi. The following were the closing quotations:

STOCKS.			
W. U. Telegraph	75⅝	Toledo & Wabash	6
Pacific Mail	77¼	Do. preferred	25¼
Adams Express	109¾	Fort Wayne	101¼
Wells-Fargo Ex	88½	Terre Haute	6¼
American Ex	63	Do. preferred	21
U. S. Express	69¼	Indiana Central	58
New York Central	119¾	Chicago & Alton	103½
Erie	16¾	Do. preferred	109
Do. preferred	35	Ohio & Mississippi	25⅛
Harlem	138	Delaware & Lack	118
Do. preferred	134	Burling'n & Qu'cy	119½
Mich. Central	89¼	Hannibal & St. Joe	19¾
Lake Shore	89	Atlantic & P. Tel	39¾
Illinois Central	99	Union Pacific stock	68¼
Clev. & Pitts	93	Do. Pacific bonds	106
Northwestern	81½	Union Pac. bonds	104
Do. preferred	68	Maripposa	8¾
N. J. Central	108½	Do. preferred	18¾
Rock Island	108⅝	Panama	120
St. Paul	34¾	Missouri Pacific	13¾
Do. preferred	77½		

GOVERNMENTS.			
U. S. coupons, 1881	122⅝	10-40's registered	116¼
5-20's, 1865	117⅞	10-40's coupons	120
5-20's, 1865, new	119⅛	New 5's	117½
5-20's, 1867	121⅛	Currency 6's	125½
5-20's, 1868	122⅝		

STATE BONDS.			
Tennessee, old	45¼	Virginia, old	38
Tennessee, new	45	Virginia, new	32½
Virginia, new	37		

LONDON, February 9.—Consols for money and account. Stock Exchange on Government securities is 93⅝@93¾ per cent. Consols for money 93 3-16; for account 94 1-16. United States bonds: 5-20's, 1865, 105⅞; do 1867, 109¼; 10-40's, 108¾; new 5's, 106. Railroad securities—New York Central 93¾; Erie 16¼; Illinois Central 96¾.

PARIS, February 9.—Rentes 68 francs 22½ centimes.

FRANKFORT, February 9.—United States bonds—New 5's 101⅝.

NEW ORLEANS, February 9.—Gold 112⅝. Sight ¼ premium. Sterling—Bank 549½@550.

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } WEDNESDAY, February 9, 1876.

The weather during the week has been changeable, but during the past two days was more favorable for out-door transactions. A continuance of good weather will assist trade very materially. The receipts for the week by river and rail show an increase of 1,231 barrels as compared with last week. Following is a comparison of prices:

	This week.	Last week.
White wheat, flour	$5 25@5 50	$5 25@5 50
Red winter wheat, flour	5 25@5 50	5 25@5 50
Spring wheat, flour	5 00@5 25	5 00@5 25
Rye, per bbl	4 75@5 00	4 75@5 00
Corn meal, per bbl	3 00@3 25	3 00@3 25
Oats, per bushel	40@42c	40@42c
Barley, per bushel	70@75c	70@75c
Potatoes, per bushel	60@70c	60@70c
Onions, per bushel	90c@$1 00	90c@$1 00
Apples, per bbl	2 50@3 00	2 50@3 00
Cabbage, per dozen	40@50c	40@50c
Hay, per ton	$16 00@17 00	$16 00@17 00
Timothy seed, per bushel	$2 50@2 75	$2 50@2 75
Clover seed, per bushel	$6 00@6 25	$6 00@6 25
Flaxseed, per bushel	$1 60@1 65	$1 60@1 65
Hungarian seed, per bushel	$1 00@1 10	$1 00@1 10
Millet seed, per bushel	$1 00@1 10	$1 00@1 10
Dried apples, per lb	5@6c	5@6c
Dried peaches, per lb	10@12c	10@12c
Dried cherries, per lb	12@14c	12@14c
Dried plums, per lb	8@10c	8@10c
Dried blackberries, per lb	5@6c	5@6c
Dried huckleberries, per lb	5@6c	5@6c
Dried raspberries, per lb	25@30c	25@30c
Dried gooseberries, per lb	5@6c	5@6c
Dried pitted cherries, per lb	20@25c	20@25c
Dried green gages, per lb	10@12c	10@12c
Dried egg plums, per lb	8@10c	8@10c
Dried damson plums, per lb	8@10c	8@10c
Dried peaches, per lb	10@12c	10@12c
Dried white cherries, per lb	25@30c	25@30c
Dried huckleberries, per lb	5@6c	5@6c
Dried currants, per lb	8@9c	8@9c
Dried blueberries, per lb	5@6c	5@6c
Dried egg plums, per lb	3@4c	3@4c
Dried damson plums, per lb	2@3c	2@3c
Dried peaches, per lb	2@3c	2@3c
Dried quinces, per lb	5@6c	5@6c
Dried gooseberries, per lb	5@6c	5@6c
Dried pitted cherries, per lb	20@25c	20@25c
Dried blueberries, per lb	5@6c	5@6c
Dried egg plums, per lb	3@4c	3@4c
Dried damson plums, per lb	2@3c	2@3c
Dried peaches, per lb	2@3c	2@3c
Dried pears, per lb	2@3c	2@3c
Dried currants, per lb

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1876.

THE *Bulletin of the Iron and Steel Association* considers it quite safe to predict that one good outcome of the present business depression will be to stay the prevailing centralizing rush into the cities and manufacturing towns, and the gradual reflux of aspiring and discontented youth who are in a hurry to be rich, into the good, old-fashioned, independent, slow but sure pursuit of agriculture.

THE general report from nearly all sections of the country is to the effect that almost everywhere there is a thorough and telling revival of Republicanism. The developments of the present Congressional session have checked whatever tendencies toward party disintegration were in existence, have produced harmony among Republicans, and have restored the fealty of many who had lately pursued a disaffected course.

LAST year's shipping statistics show the total number of vessels comprising our commercial marine to be 32,285, representing a tonnage of 4,853,732, and forming an increase of 53,080 tons over the total of 1874, some 167,700 tons over 1873, and 415,966 compared with 1872. The tonnage reported at the close of each year, shows the total of 1875 to be greater than that of any previous year since the war, which is a better exhibit than was expected.

THE New Jersey Legislature is considering a bill to provide criminal penalties for the punishment of private bankers who defraud depositors of their money. In that State, as elsewhere, many persons are conducting an ostensible banking business in such a way as unreasonably to endanger the money of their customers. It is also proposed to compel publicity in the accounts of the banks. Both of these steps are in the right direction.

ONE encouraging feature of the various savings banks statements for the past year, now being furnished, is the fact that in a majority of instances in these institutions the deposits, during the period named, exceeded the withdrawals. This has doubtless arisen in part from the inactivity of many departments of business, but still more largely from the continued thrift and frugality of that class of the community who have formed the good habit of keeping a saving's bank account.

IT APPEARS that the House Appropriation Committee at Washington, in preparing to reduce the clerical force in the Executive Departments twenty per cent., has been playing with a two-edged sword. The correspondent of the Chicago *Tribune* says:

"The various State Associations have been making an exact computation of the number and politics of the entire clerical force here. The result is amusing as it is surprising. The computation shows that almost exactly that percentage of clerks are Democratic."

The department officers will of course remove the Democrats first, since it was that party which first began the war.

THE reviving spirit of trust and confidence which is gradually spreading through the various ramifications of trade, is itself beginning to result in an increased business activity of an encouraging character. A long season of forced economy had produced contraction of expenses on the one hand, and making and saving a dollar where it is possible, on the other; and a general liquidation of indebtedness has been the result. Many of those who could pay in full have done so, while most of those who either could not, or would not, and who had hitherto maintained delusive credits, have—if the mercantile agencies are to be believed—pretty much all been closed out. The rubbish, therefore, is being rapidly cleared away; while the country at large, finding itself again in a comparatively healthy condition, also finds stocks of all kinds of goods supplying our daily necessities nearly exhausted. Evidently, from present indications, this will be a year of large buying; and that means solid, profitable activity in most departments of trade.

REFERRING to the humiliating fact that the crooked whisky trials at St. Louis, Milwaukee, Indianapolis and elsewhere, have proved that in many cases the Government agents themselves were the principal offenders, the New York *Journal of Commerce* throws out the suggestion that the revenue corps shall be detached from local influences, be better paid, and receive premiums for long and faithful service; that the offices shall be permanent, clerkships for good behavior, and promotion be open to all; and, finally, that the members of the corps shall be changed about from one station to another, not in sets but individually, regularly, every six months. This last idea is good. Rings are of slow growth. A long period of acquaintance and mutual confidence is necessary before a number of Government officials, strangers at first, would trust each other even for their bare honor. If shifted about frequently there would be no time to get up a ring worth the trouble. And if one were organized, it would feel, if the new plan were adopted, in constant fear of being broken up and exposed by the advent of a new man or men of strict integrity from some other district to supersede members of the ring.

SPEAKING of the petitions in circulation throughout the country for the repeal or amendment of the bankrupt laws, and of the long list of dishonest men who have taken advantage of the confusion incident to the unusual number of commercial breakdowns, to swindle their creditors and pocket a liberal percentage of their own debts, the Boston *Advertiser* says:

"There is room for more than a suspicion that the expenses of a legal bankruptcy process have made creditors too willing to accept of less than a fair percentage of the debts due them by suspended concerns, and this unusually favorable disposition on the part of creditors has in turn led many who might have continued to meet their obligations, to take advantage of the times and scale down their debts. It is becoming common for houses that have enjoyed fair credit, and that, for all anybody has been able to ascertain, are still solvent, to permit their papers to go to protest, and call a meeting of their creditors. So far as such bankruptcies are merely schemes to evade the payment of just obligations, which might have been met if there were a proper disposition on the part of the debtor firms, they are an evidence of sad demoralization in the business community, and a sign of the times that should excite the most serious alarm on the part of those who believe that commercial integrity is quite as important a necessity of the time as financial soundness."

The Chicago *Tribune*, in commenting on the above, says there are men moving in high social circles in the city to-day, whose conduct, in settling with their creditors, has been such as to make any hypothesis of their honesty preposterous. These facts of themselves prove that merchants can do much, without a repeal or amendment of the law, to arrest this moral panic. If they would cease to extend social recognition to men who thus defraud and demoralize the community, and would refuse further credit to these cheating bankrupts, the evil would be more than half cured. As long as men may cheat and get credit again, and preserve their place in society, two powerful checks to such dishonesty are removed.

THE *American Builder* insists that we must construct our dwellings more nearly, if not absolutely, fire proof, with floors of solid wrought iron beams or joists, tied with iron rods anchored to the walls, and with brick or hollow cement arches sprung across, the upper spaces between the beams and floors to be filled with gypsum. The partitions may be lathing fitted into iron beams, or hollow bricks of cement. Dwellings thus built in Paris are said to be almost indestructible by fire, and the *Builder* claims that the cost need not exceed the ordinary method by more than fifty per cent. There is no doubt that the tinder-box style of architecture which prevails in this country might be changed very greatly for the better. As an example of the durability of European buildings, it is mentioned that the American Minister's house at Florence, Italy, is "known to have been an old house four hundred and fifty years ago." The outer walls are of rubble masonry, and very thick. They are not lined with furring or otherwise, and the plastering is applied directly to the inner surface. In many of the better class of Italian houses a thin detached wall of brick is laid a couple of inches within the inner surface of the outer wall to receive the plastering. The inner wall is stiffened and bound with the center wall by an occasional single brick, and is continuously bound with it around the openings. Such linings are very nearly as dry and as warm as wooden framing. All the partition walls, even of small chambers and closets, are of stone or brick, and the door and window casings are of stone. The floors are either vaulted with brick or they are of timber, board, tiles, and mortar thus laid. It is evidently next to impossible that such a flooring should take fire, or even be set on fire. Not least among the needs of this country, at the present time, is the need of more solid building.

THE impression that too many branches are taught in the public schools of most cities, and that it would be beneficial both to the taxpayers and the pupils to reduce their number, is steadily gaining ground. A leading religious journal of New York insists, indeed, that the entire curriculum of our public schools needs revision; holding that it is not the duty of the State to turn out incipient lawyers, engineers, mathematicians, linguists, or musicians; that, as a matter of self-protection, the State owes it to itself that all citizens possess a knowledge of the common English branches, such as are essential to the apprehension of the duties of citizenship, but that beyond this the State has no right to go. The *Commercial Advertiser* dwells on the fact that cramming children is nearly as deleterious, in the end, as giving them no learning at all. Another religious paper of extended influence also takes ground against teaching "algebra, music and what is known as the higher branches," saying:

"There are a good many poor people that have to pay these taxes, widows, unmarried people and old people, who, it would seem, should not be called on to provide luxuries or means of support for others. There are many parents so poor that they cannot let their children go on to these heights of education. Ought they to pay for others' children who can go on? It is possible to nurse a spirit of communism under such a specious form as this. Yet the form it takes is at present so beautiful, and we have such a natural pride in providing the finest opportunities, that the wrong which may here entrench itself will be difficult to attack."

The *Herald* concurs in this view, setting forth that the object of the public schools is directly to fit our youth for their duties as American citizens and to take their places as intelligent members of society, to accomplish which only a plain elementary education is needed. The *Express* holds that it is no part of the duty of the State to educate its children beyond a substantial common school education, and the *Journal of Commerce*, whilst admitting that these schools are the bulwark of the State, insists that for all beyond what is properly taught there, parents should provide without taxing the people at large.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Congress resounds with noisy emptiness as of a thousand beaten drums.

Delaware proposes to establish sugar making as a regular home industry.

The Democratic Supreme Court of Texas has just decided that contracts for Confederate money are not void.

It will help business to revive if every one who has work to do will do it, and mind his own business.

Congressman Piper, of California, owns over 2,000 acres in the heart of San Francisco. It pays the piper.

Congressman Willis wants to have the army and navy supplied with dentists, but his reasons are toothin.

Think of it. One branch of the Manitoban Legislature has actually voted itself out of existence to save expense.

"Asses' Ears" is the name of a forthcoming book. It does not, however, relate to Eli Perkins' auricular appendages.

Philadelphia claims the palm "for the greatest religious meetings ever held on this Continent." Now for the fruits.

In New York and vicinity there are upwards of five hundred florists with an aggregate invested capital of $10,000,000.

Italy is so pleased with Great Britain's idea of heavy artillery that she has ordered a hundred ton gun to be cast for her naval service.

St. Joseph, Missouri, is all aglow with satisfaction over the discovery of extensive cannel coal beds within a few miles of that city.

Germany is going to send over here several officers of the mining department, with instructions to study up our mining industries.

A hint for our own cities. A company has been organized in London to manufacture gas from sewage by a wonderfully cheap process.

Lieutenant Cameron's recently completed African exploring tour was a great success, every member of his party but himself having died.

The New York *World* notes a marked revival in the demand for business property in that city. Notably this is true of store property for lease.

Miss Cozens, a lovely lawyer" of St. Louis, says only lawyers who object to seeing her in the profession are the "tadpoles and minnows." Correct.

Bob Toombs couldn't vote in any country. He says that the suffrage should not be conferred on either knaves or fools, which would doubly exclude him.

A new theory has been started in England, that the foot-and-mouth disease, which is so prevalent among cattle there, is conveyed from one district to another by birds.

Last year the importations of raw silk into the United States, reached the large aggregate of 1,330,482 pounds, denoting a rapid growth of the silk manufacturing industries.

A memorial signed by citizens of every State and Territory is before Congress for the appointment of the twelfth day of February, the day Abraham Lincoln was born, as a legal holiday.

The scheme for deepening the river Irwell, and thereby making Manchester a shipping port, has been revived in England. Liverpool, however, thinks it wouldn't suit her well.

Samuel Cox says he don't hanker after the Presidency "My place is in Congress." True. He's safer, there. The Congressional buffoon is the lineal inheriter of the immunities of the court fool.

IN Boston the other day, a prisoner, in testifying in his own behalf, solemnly said: "Gentlemen of the jury, I never stole any junk in my life. That isn't my line. The dry goods business is my line.'

Kansas has just passed a law allowing counties to give a premium of $5 per bushel for grasshopper eggs, and sixty cents per bushel for unfledged grasshoppers. The counties will jump at the chance.

Everything now-a-days, laments a writer in *Scribner*, is over-ornamented, furniture, rooms, houses, churches and even note paper. This is true; the beauty of simplicity in form and outline appears to be unknown.

A former attache of the Chicago *Tribune* charges that in 1865 that paper received through the Cobden Club, of London, $10,000 in gold as compensation for its advocacy of free trade. It certainly earned the money.

PERSONAL.

Senator English has turned over all his back pay to Senator Ferry's widow.

The Emperor of Brazil is to arrive in Washington in April, and, after visiting the centennial, will travel through the country for about three months.

Our consul at Calcutta is named Litchfield. During the Prince of Wales' late visit to that city he figured amid the rajahs and maharajahs as a splendid creature in a "dark helmet with nodding yellow plumes." He should be invited to return home.

A little Connecticut girl whose father recently died, being displeased that her mother has fallen in love with another man, applied to the mayor, the other day, to have the affair stopped by the police, and when informed that they couldn't do anything about it left his office, crying.

Another Democratic ex-Congressman has been provided with a subordinate position by the Clerk of the House of Representatives. Morgan Rawls, late a Representative from Georgia, has been made Superintendent of boxes in the folding room. Poverty compelled him to accept the place, which is that of a common laborer.

People had expected that McKee's chief partner, Houser, would be more or less reached during the trial against McKee, but from the very beginning of the whisky troubles to the present time that gentleman has passed through the fire of investigation unscathed, his good name never being once stained, and the records showing him to have been amidst this reign of corruption a man *sans peur et sans reproche*.

Father Pelamorgues, who was the first Catholic priest sent to Iowa, going there in 1839 as a missionary priest from France, died in Paris the other day. He officiated until 1861, when he returned to France to end his days. When he went to Iowa there were 400 Catholics in the State; now there are 125,000. He established the first church in Davenport. He was a man of great piety, charity, ability and liberality, and was beloved by all sects. He had been quite well off, but gave his property away in charity and died in poverty at the age of seventy years.

CHEAP TRANSPORTATION.

The Improvement of the Ohio River—Statements Made Before the House Committee on Commerce—Action to be Taken in Connection with the River and Harbor Bill—A Review of Major Merrill's Work—Estimates for 1876-7.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 2, 1876.

The House Committee on Commerce within the past week have given a very thorough hearing to the different parties representing rival views on the subject of the navigation of the Ohio river and its improvement. Statements have been made by Major William E. Merrill, Corps of Engineers, in charge of improvements on the Ohio river, and a delegation from the Pittsburgh Coal Exchange and the Steamboatmen's Association. The committee heard what these gentlemen had to say, but have had no conversation on the subject among themselves. They will take this matter into consideration in connection with the River and Harbor bill.

Major Merrill, in his statement before the committee, reviewed the work of the past year, explaining the work on the dikes at French Island, Evansville and Henderson Island, the Henderson Island dam, and the removal of Bacon Rock.

In speaking of the French Island dike, 760 miles below Pittsburgh, he alluded to its completion and the advantages gained. In speaking of the same work in his report to the Chief of Engineers, Major Merrill says: The first effect of this dike was excellent; rivermen were delighted with it, and I thought that a radical improvements had been made. Unfortunately I discovered, after my report had gone in, that although good water was made and maintained where the bar was when I commenced work, yet the sands had reformed a bar just below the end of the dike, so that very little practical advantage had resulted from the work. Accordingly, with the approval of the Chief of Engineers, I have made a new contract for an addition of 1,000 feet to the length of the dike. I hope that this extension will drive the sands into deeper water, and cause them so to distribute themselves along the sides of the channel as to leave good navigable water in the middle. I consider this experiment a very valuable one in determining the utility of attempting the radical improvement of the Lower Ohio, by using dikes to guide and control the currents. If the result is to be a mere shifting of a bar from one place to another, a serviceable improvement will require a continuous line of dams and dikes throughout the whole length of the river, and this would be both costly and annoying to navigation. Before this report reaches Congress I expect to have the extension completed, but two or three seasons' experience will be needed to determine the full value of the experiment.

In regard to the gain in the depth in the Ohio river, under the plans adopted, Major Merrill says that the nature of the bottom varies so much in different parts of the river, and the amount of shifting sand is so various, that the available depth on all bars, improved or unimproved, is always uncertain. The effect of the contraction also varies at different stages of water. Thus, at the Trap, near Pittsburgh, the depth in dead low water, when the total amount of water passing is very small, is probably not increased more than two or three inches. At a higher stage the dike prevents the water from spreading, and thus secures a greater navigable depth than it would have otherwise. Such locks like Glass House, at Allegheny city, have been radically improved, but the radical improvement consists in having such a depth that boats can use the pass when they can pass the Trap. Formerly the Glass House bar was the worst of the two.

At Medoc, Warsaw and Rising Sun there has been an appreciable gain for ordinary stages, but in dead low water the gain almost disappears, because at such stages the flowing volume is small that the river would naturally contract into a channel of about the same width as that caused by the dike, and therefore at such stages the dike can have but little effect. As a rule, I think that the effect of dikes and dams is more in preventing water from spreading during stages of from two to six feet above low water than in any increase in depth at dead low water. The worst places of course control navigation, and I should say that between Pittsburgh and Wheeling we cannot depend, after improvement, upon more than eighteen inches ordinary low water between Wheeling and Huntington, on more than two feet; between Huntington and Portsmouth, on more than two and a half feet; between Portsmouth and Louisville, on more than three feet; and below Louisville, on more than three and a half feet. These are very troublesome from Portsmouth down, but especially so below the falls. Whether we can permanently control them by open-river improvement, can be told with some certainty after we see the results of extending the dike at French Island.

The work on the Evansville dike, 783 miles below Pittsburgh, was progressing slowly, so as to give the river time to gradually work out its new channel along the river front at Evansville. The reports, he says, were favorable.

The Henderson dike, 797 miles below Pittsburgh, was delayed to give time for rapidly building the dam.

The Henderson dam, 797 miles below Pittsburgh, was built across the chute, and as near the head of the island as practicable. The bank was carefully protected by piles, brush and stone, extending from 200 feet above the dam to 200 feet below it before work on the dam was begun. The dam is forty feet in width, with three rows of piles six feet apart, the space between the upper rows being fifteen feet, and between the middle and lower rows twenty-five feet. These spaces between the rows are filled with loose brush and stone. The total length of the dam is 620 feet. There were used in its construction 3,872 cubic yards of stone, 6,585 cubic feet of brush and 613 piles. A recent inspection shows that some repairs will be needed during the present season.

The Bacon Rock, 967 miles below Pittsburgh, has been entirely removed. The dredge employed was of the clam-shell type, and no difficulty was found in lifting the loose gravel and sand that formed the inside of the rock. The cementing substance was mainly iron. The gravel was identical with that used in Paducah for roadbeds, for which it is particularly valuable. The *debris* of this lately formidable obstruction were placed on the Cairo levee.

After the river had fallen sufficiently to bring to view the top of the Cumberland dam, it was found that a large portion of the old part of the dam, which was supposed to be strong and therefore left untouched, had sunk below grade, and that a gap had been opened at the junction between the new and the old work. By authority of the Chief of Engineers, a contract for the repair of these injuries was let. 7,185 cubic yards of stone were used, but its present state is unknown, as it has been out of sight since the repairs were completed.

In explaining the estimates for 1876-7 Major Merrill said:

The question of the proper method of improving the Upper Ohio, at least between Pittsburgh and Wheeling, was submitted to a Board of Engineers which met at Pittsburgh on the 14th of April, 1875, and reported in favor of the plan which was recommended in my last annual report.

In accordance with the terms of the act of March 9, 1875, the report of the Board was submitted to the Secretary of War, was approved by the General Moorhead, and ordered to prepare for active operations. Before commencing, it was necessary to purchase sufficient land for the lock and its approaches, for the abutments on Davis Island, and for the two abutments of the permanent dam behind Davis' Island. The laws of the United States require that before the construction of any Government work, the State in which it is located shall cede to the United States its jurisdiction over the land so purchased. Knowing this, and anticipating the improvements in the Ohio by locks and dams, in 1873 I drew up the project of a bill for cession of jurisdiction by the State of Pennsylvania over all land that might be needed in Pennsylvania for the improvemnnt of the Ohio river by locks and dams, and forwarded it to General Moorhead, of Pittsburgh, the Chairman of the Ohio River Commissioners. General Moorhead revised and modified the proposed bill, and then caused it to be introduced into the Pennsylvania Legislature in the session of 1873-4. The bill passed both Houses, but was vetoed by the Governor. During the session of 1875, a new bill was introduced, drawn up so as to obviate the Governor's objections, and this bill passed the Lower House, and was sent to the Senate. Unfortunately the bill was mislaid, and could not be found when called in its order. The Legislature adjourned without acting on it, but the bill came up again at the next session as an unfinished business. The non-passage of the bill, together with the enormous prices set on their property by the riparian owners, caused you to order me to suspend all operations on the dam until the bill was passed. It contained a clause giving the same right of condemnation usually granted to railroads, and when it does pass we will be able to get the necessary land at a fair price. This state of affairs is very annoying, but I feel that I did all that I could to guard against it, and that it did not occur through any neglect or carelessness on my part.

In my last year's estimate I recommended the simultaneous construction of thirteen locks between Pittsburgh and Wheeling, rather than to commence on a smaller number of complete movable dams with locks. My reason for this recommendation was that all the locks could be under way at the same time without interfering with each other, or with navigation. After these were built all the dams could be undertaken simultaneously, and as it would take no longer to build thirteen independent dams than one, the navigation of the river would only be obstructed for two years, while a different policy would obstruct it during every year until the whole work was completed. I therefore can do no better than to repeat my former estimate, which is as follows:

Thirteen locks at $200,000	$2,600,000 00
Engineering and contingencies of locks—5 per cent	130,000 00
Nine months' services of dredges	27,000 00
Nine months' services of snagboat	27,000 00
Improvement of Monongahela	130,000 00
Office expenses, inspector, stationery, quarters and traveling	14,000 00
Total	$3,000,000 00

The estimates on the thirteen locks are only approximate, because last year's operations did not suffice to determine absolutely the location for all the locks, and since then the stage in the river has been higher than it should be for first-class work. Between now and December the necessary re-examinations will be made, and reasonably accurate estimates may be prepared. The average cost of a lock will be greater than $200,000, as many of them must be built on gravel, but as I cannot yet make exact estimates I prefer to let the first approximate estimate remain.

In my report on the radical improvement of the Ohio, I estimated the cost of a lock as follows:

On rock foundation	$179,610 00
On gravel foundation	285,168 00
Average	$232,389 00

The bars that need improvement on the Ohio below the falls are the same that were mentioned last year—namely, Portland, Flint Island, Puppy creek, Scuffletown, Three-mile Island, Shawneetown, Treadwater, foot of Cumberland Island, and the Grand Chain. At the latter place the Jackson rock should be removed, even if nothing else is done. The estimate of $180,000 is not sufficient to do all this work, but no reliable estimates can be made, and the places where work should be done must be determined by the condition of the river during the preceding low water.

As this estimate is made in July, 1875, for work which is not to be commenced before July, 1876, and as it is made while the river is high, and in advance of the work of the present season, it is necessarily vague. As an illustration of the difficulty of predicting work so far ahead, I will only state that during this year I will be unable to work at any of the bars mentioned above, but instead I have been obliged to let a contract for additional work at French Island, a bar that I considered as radically improved when my last annual report was written.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Balance in Treasury of United States, July 1, 1874	$ 175,000 00
Amount in hands of officer and subject to his check (including $4,525 65 percentage due on contracts not yet completed) July 1, 1874	24,380 40
Amount appropriated by act approved March 3, 1875	300,000 00
Amount expended during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875	224,778 09
Amount available July 1, 1875, including $8,120 52 due on cont. acts.	274,611 40
Amount required for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877	3,000,000 00

DEB. R. K.

A QUACK'S WORK.

A Young Woman Dies Under the Treatment of a So-called Doctor—Literally Burned to Death.

[From the Titusville Courier, February 4.]

On Wednesday evening a daughter of Uriah J. Jennings, of Troy township, brother of Dr. Jennings, deceased, and formerly of this city, died in great agony. She died under the treatment of a man, calling himself a physician, named Osborne, and from the accounts furnished us, there is little doubt that his treatment of this girl was a case of grossly criminal malpractice. Our informant is Mr. Robert Jennings, an uncle of the young lady, who came to this city last night for Coroner Strouse, to hold an inquest over the body. The Coroner, after summoning Drs. Oakes and Barth of this city to conduct a post mortem examination, started back with Mr. Jennings. The doctors will go out early this morning.

It seems that this mountebank applied some sort of a liquid solution of a corrosive or caustic character to the surface of the body, and in this way the young lady was literally burned alive. For nineteen hours she breathed her last she could not lie down, so great was the soreness of her flesh upon her sides and back, but rested herself upon her elbows and knees, and in her position as best she could under the terrible torture, until death released her from her sufferings. The people of the neighborhood, upon becoming acquainted with all the facts concerning the treatment of the girl by the quack doctor, were aroused, and they resolved to have the whole matter subjected to the most thorough legal investigation. The pseudo doctor will doubtless be arrested for malpractice, and prosecuted to the extreme of the law. It is time that an example be made of the miserable mountebanks, who, pretending to medical skill, necessarily endanger the lives of all that unfortunately become their dupes and place themselves under their treatment.

The *Courier* of Saturday, 5th inst., gives the result of the inquest—a verdict that Miss Jennings came "to her death through the malpractice of one J. S. Osborn, while pretending to treat her medically." The *Courier* furnishes the following further account of the case:

We gave an account yesterday morning of the fatal treatment by a quack doctor of a young girl in Troy township, near Chapmanville. The inquest held yesterday by Coroner Strouse over the remains of the young girl revealed a case of treatment even than we had published. On Monday we shall print in full the testimony before the Coroner's jury, but will give now some of the leading points in the case.

Mary Jennings, daughter of Mr. Uriah J. Jennings, of Troy township, if she had lived, would March next, would have been sixteen years old. A few weeks ago she was troubled with indisposition, incident to a girl of her age, and a local physician, named Osborne, was called. He pronounced her clinically "erysipelas of the stomach," and, we believe, administered some remedies, but not with satisfactory results, for the medical fraternity will doubtless profit from the discovery of a new disease. But about this time, a tramp, named Osborne, calling himself Dr. Osborne, and the people know like other boastful charlatans, he first declared that the girl had a fatal difficulty, but professed to have, what was a secret to himself, a power of healing, and a remedy for the disease. He said the girl was troubled with a "cancerous humor" in her system. But he had discovered a liniament, which was unknown to any other man or woman, and this was the only thing which would destroy the aforesaid cancerous humor. The antidote, he asserts, was to be carefully persuaded to allow this quack to proceed with his proposed mode of treatment. This was about three weeks ago. The quack first administered a liniment upon the girl's face, upon which, as is often the case with children of her age, a few slight pimples appeared. These were—the fellow said—the effect of the "cancerous humor" in her face. The effect of the solution upon her face was to scarify the skin, wherever it was rubbed upon, the same as if some acid had been applied. He next applied it to the girl's back and sides from the neck down upon the spine about eighteen and a half inches. From the first application to the end it appeared, but was still ailing, when about two weeks after the first, the quack made a second application. The girl still survived, when the fellow administered the third and final solution, rubbing it upon the girl's back and sides, until it was all absorbed into the skin. The sufferings of the girl, which then followed, can scarcely be imagined, much less described—until death relieved her. She had been a smart and rosy-faced girl. She was five feet and four inches in height, and had been full of life and activity. But such were her sufferings during the last few days of her existence, that those who saw her face yesterday, say it was distorted, and scarred somewhat from the solution which had been applied to it three weeks ago, said she looked as if she were fifty years old.

The *post-mortem* examination yesterday showed inflammation of the tissues of the back, together with deep ulceration and sloughing of the cellular tissue and skin. This extended from the small of the back along the sides. Upon measurement it was found that the ulceration was 18½ inches long the spines, and 14½ inches from the right to the left side, and upon the back, from one elbow to the other, was one mass of inflammation and ulceration and flakes of sloughing skin. The whole body was dropsical and her face was very much discolored and emaciated. The injury was so severe and extended that her recovery was an impossibility. It is evident that the "liniment" was a solution of corrosive sublimate, which produced the sloughing and ulceration, and by the absorption of the mercurial poison salivation was produced, because, examination of the mouth showed the products of mercurial salivation, which consisted of deep ulcerations of the mucous surface of the inside of the mouth, together with sloughing of the gums, and mercurial ulceration of the teeth of the jaw. Upon removing the muslin shreds of skin clung to flakes of skin inches in width were lifted, and the entire surface, where the solution had been applied, was blood-shot. Even small lumps of rotten flesh adhered to the muslin. The physicians, Drs. Oakes and Barr, both having had long experience as army surgeons, say they never before saw such a frightful case as this.

The community where Mr. Jennings resides, as might naturally be expected, are greatly excited over the matter. A warrant has been sworn out for the arrest of Osborn, but up to late yesterday afternoon the officer in pursuit had not succeeded in finding him. He had been boarding with a woman, about four miles beyond where Mr. Jennings lives, on Sugar Creek, in the same way, and Dr. Wilson, of that neighborhood, who has charge of her, says that she cannot possibly live. It will be recollected that we spoke of the condition of the Jennings girl, when she could not lie upon her back or either side; but she would rest herself upon her hands and knees, shifting herself as she could, her suffering too intense to be described, until death released her. The only victim of the quack will probably suffer no less than did Mary Jennings.

Insanity.

Statistics of insanity show that cases of mental derangement are more numerous, in proportion to population, in Nevada and California than in any other States in the Union. On July 1, 1875, there were 1,302 patients in the California State Insane Asylum in Stockton, two-thirds of whom were classed as foreigners, meaning, probably, persons who had no settled residence within the State. In seventy-two cases the insanity could be traced directly to intemperance, but in the majority of instances the causes of insanity were unknown. Of the whole number of patients, men who had been laborers were the most numerous, housewives, farmers and gold miners third. The Superintendent of the Stockton asylum, in enumerating the causes of insanity which are more prevalent in a sparsely populated State than in a more stationary community, mentions "separation from family and friends, disappointments, disastrous enterprises, sudden reverses of fortune, fast living and an unsettled condition of life." Doubtless the almost universal passion for speculating in mining stocks which prevails in the Pacific States has had an important influence in peopling their lunatic asylums.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

What a Pennsylvania Republican Thinks of the Confederate House—Nothing Done, and Nothing to be Done.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, February 3, 1876.

Yesterday was Ground Hog Day, and that historic quadruped had a sight at his shadow, got scared, went back to his home, and, tradition tells us, we are to have six weeks of stormy weather. We have also had a political ground hog day. The animal had about laid dormant since the close of the rebellion, but ventured out at the beginning of the present session of Congress. Having promised itself a feast of fat things, it ventured out, but in the light of our Republican luminaries, like all coming events, it cast its shadow before, and showed itself to be the same animal which tried to knaw the vitals out of this Union, and was at once driven to its hole, but has left us six weeks of a political storm.

The fact of it is, the Democratic party is in a most deplorable condition. They told the people that the Republican party had misgoverned the country, and that it had neither the honesty nor the ability to bring us out of our difficulties, and that the best way to save the Union was to hand it over to the party which tried to destroy it, and to preserve the Constitution was to place it into the hands of the party which had trampled it under foot, and with a sound of trumpets, boasted that they have the ability to do all the people wanted.

Well, to show their attachment to the Union soldiers, they at once turned them out of office and brought rebels to the front.

To show how they hated traitors, they at once brought in a bill to enfranchise every mother's son of them, including Jeff. Davis; and to show their disposition to guard the National Treasury, they have already introduced bills for millions of dollars to pay rebels for their losses in a war which they themselves brought on the country, and for property which they themselves destroyed.

What a pitiful sight they presented at the very beginning. There is not votes to give amnesty to Jeff. Davis, and had the will, but lacked *brain*. The result is that they have a beautiful fight on their hands, and crimination and recrimination are the order of the day, so that the minor question as to "who struck Billy Patterson" has been swallowed up in the major one, who is to blame for the defeat of the Amnesty bill?

The next difficulty was to organize a national committee; but this was not so easy to overcome with the mixed elements with which they had to deal, 'and whenever they met there was much bad blood and hair pulling as this world scarcely ever saw. They did finally succeed in placing Hiester Clymer in the Chairmanship as a reward for his vote against appropriating money for arming the State of Pennsylvania at the beginning of the war. Well, the next difficulty is to lay down a policy. They propounded the usual howling, and in order to meet their expectations, a policy must be laid down; but here comes the rub. One wants a plank in favor of State's rights and a fraternal Union, while the right of secession and pay for the losses of the South during the war, to this there would be no objection if the South would only come in and help comfort Presidential election, and then it would all be done, provided the Democrats succeeded. "We must have this now to get our people to support a Democrat," say the more honest Southerner. The Northern Democrat says, "You must wait until after the election, or the entire North will go against us."

Then again, a Northern man insists that in case a Democrat is elected, there must be a bill granting amnesty to all who fought in the ranks of the Union; the rebels say, "no, sir; our Christian soldier, Stonewall Jackson, recommended at the beginning of the war that we throw out the black flag and take no prisoners, which we failed to do then, and since we did not kill all the Union soldiers on the battlefield, nor succeed in starving them at Andersonville, we will take them after two years in power."

The next man wants inflation, but at once a dozen spring to their feet and smack their fists and vociferate with their tongues that that is the issue of issues. Now then comes the oily Lamar, with a pile of gags, and says: "Well, gentlemen, if you can't agree on a policy, I will at least present you with food while the matter is under consideration." Even small lumps of rotten flesh adhered to the muslin. The physicians, Drs. Oakes and Barr, both having had long experience as army surgeons, say they never before saw such a frightful case as this.

The community where Mr. Jennings resides, as might naturally be expected, are greatly excited over the matter. A warrant has been sworn out for the arrest of Osborn, but up to late yesterday afternoon the officer in pursuit had not succeeded in finding him. He had been boarding with a woman, about four miles beyond where Mr. Jennings lives, on Sugar Creek, in the same way, and Dr. Wilson, of that neighborhood, who has charge of her, says that she cannot possibly live. It will be recollected that we spoke of the condition of the Jennings girl, when she could not lie upon her back or either side; but she would rest herself upon her hands and knees, shifting herself as she could, her suffering too intense to be described, until death released her. The only victim of the quack will probably suffer no less than did Mary Jennings.

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TO A YOUNG HOUSEKEEPER.

Sentimental but Sound Advice from a Grandmother—How to Keep the Men.

After marriage go to housekeeping. Do not allow any one to persuade you to board if your means will not permit of renting and furnishing a whole house, get two or three rooms; there can be a world of happiness inside two compartments, and as it is your great wish to be happy and contented, begin with a good solid foundation. Vow you will live within your means, and keep that vow religiously. Do not be troubled if your friends Annie and Nellie are making a greater show with an equal income. You will get up after a while when perhaps they will have to take rooms and reduce their expenses.

We take it for granted your husband is engaged in some occupation; now as he goes daily to his business you go to yours, determined to be a "help meet" and not simply a "help eat."

Dress neatly, have your calico wrappers made for work, not with long trails suitable only for fine ladies who can afford Bridget; wear a plain linen collar, or if you prefer, one of calico made on the dress. Be well supplied with kitchen aprons and one of some heavy, coarse material for scrubbing, washing, etc., and do not be ashamed to be seen working. Your husband has to work for your bread and butter; is that a disgrace? You answer no; then 'tis none for you to aid him. Don't begin to apologize if a friend drops in, and finds you at the wash tub—you can be and are as much of a lady in the kitchen as in the parlor.

Arrange your work systematically, by so doing you will accomplish more—have a time for visiting, receiving visitors, etc. Of two women whom we know of equal means and time, one accomplishes one-third more than the other—never seems in a hurry, her house is as neat as a pin, herself likewise, while the other—how shall we describe her home? go in with me; every chair full—"Oh my! excuse the looks of the house, I am washing, baking and trying to get some cleaning done, and had not time to make the bed and rid up." No system there, you mentally exclaim. 'Tis better to take Monday, if possible, for your washing; you are less liable to be interrupted. Tuesday, ironing; Wednesday, sewing, cleaning up, etc.; Thursday, sewing: Friday, same; Saturday, baking, cleaning, etc.; Sabbath, rest; do not spend this morning all the time, visiting or receiving visitors.

As we urged you to be neat in your dress and manner, pay particular attention to arranging your table; it is not necessary to have the finest linen, china or silver; of course they are something to be desired, and we do not undervalue either their beauty or worth, but with a table coyered with a fine white cloth, of coarse, neat stoneware (white and perfectly plain) good and wholesome victuals well cooked, you can raise yourself greatly in the esteem of a hungry man; no matter if you are not as handsome as you would like, you will look better looking in his eyes every day. Be cheerful, welcome your husband with not only a neat house and person, but a smile. No matter if you have had many annoyances through the day, try and drive the thoughts of them away, and if it is tea, have an easy chair and the newspaper or favorite book where it will catch his eye on rising from the table. Tempt him to spend the long autumn and winter evenings at home with you, interesting and improving conversing, music, if you have the talent, etc. Get him a pair of slippers and make him a dressing gown. These will cost money and labor, but they will pay in the end. Have the chair, slippers near by, and if he puts these on, picks up his paper or book, you will have your husband safe for the evening. He will feel so thoroughly comfortable that it would take a good deal to get him out; and if business compells him to go, be assured you will soon see that he behaves every good woman to do all she can to make her home attractive. The saloon keepers understand this power of attraction perfectly, and are always ready to win your husband away from his home. They care not for the lonely suffering wife and children.

POLITICAL.

State.

The Greenback party in Middlesex, Mercer county, contemplates putting a local ticket in the field.

The Republicans of Williamsport have nominated S. W. Starkweather for Mayor, Daniel Longsdorf for Treasurer, and W. E. Eeles for Auditor.

The Democrats of Harrisburg have nominated the following ticket: Mayor, Andrew Schlayer; City Treasurer, William K. Verbeke; Supervisor First district, David Simmons, Sr.; Supervisor Second district, Louis Fei